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Refine bill's language to ban phone use while driving. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'CHCC is ready to apply green cards for its longtime nurses'

CHRISTMAS IN THE MARIANAS
The enormous Christmas tree at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose center is lit during the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village lighting ceremony last Sunday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Even before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services made a 3,000 cut in the number of slots for foreign workers in fiscal year 2018, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is already in the midst of plans to apply for permanent residency visas for its long-term nurses.

» CW is more than just filling a spot

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the corporation is looking for appropriate visa categories for its nurses and staff, either H-1B or EB-2 visas. She said the Commonwealth

See CHCC on Page 4

Amber alert fizzles

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Boy, 15, returns home after alert is issued

A 15-year-old boy returned home yesterday morning a few hours after his parents reported him missing and the Department of Public Safety issued an alert.

Acting DPS spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said that Lee Ray Fitial went back home in Kagman 2 at 9:38am.

See AMBER on Page 4

DPS calls off search for boat

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety called off on Sunday the search for a distressed vessel west of Saipan as there was no sighting and nobody even filed a report with DPS about an overdue or missing boat from the island.

Acting DPS spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong

See DPS on Page 4

Christmas Village now open

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The brightly lit Christmas Village at the courtyard of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe was officially unveiled to the public last Sunday night with a lighting ceremony.

Hundreds gathered to witness the lighting of the 2nd Annual Christmas Village, with first lady Diann Torres herself flipping on the switch that made the displays come alive.

A total of 28 Christmas Village cottages created by government and private agencies were lit up, along with the enormous Christmas tree displayed at the center's courtyard.

The project is a brainchild of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation.

Torres believes this year's lighting ceremony is more successful. "It was better than last year, I think. We see more people. Everybody just opted for higher this year," she said.

Torres said she decided bring the village back and make it an annual thing because it turned

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More than 80 women who have gone to recruit training at Fort Benning, Georgia.
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Indonesian authorities raise the alert for a rumbling volcano on Bali.
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Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, who represented South Africa, is Miss Universe.
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Local

ON GOVT TRYING TO SAVE CW PROGRAM

‘Unfortunately, this ship has sailed’

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former CNMI resident who headed a number of local business groups doesn’t see U.S. Congress acceding to the Commonwealth’s request to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, which is set to end in 2019.

Lynn Knight, who served as the representative of a territorial governor in Washington D.C., chaired two economic development commissions, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands board, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce board, said the CNMI should end its reliance on foreign workers.

“Unfortunately, this ship has sailed. We knew that [Public Law 110-229] would not work for the CNMI as it was written and that’s why we opposed it for more than a decade. I don’t

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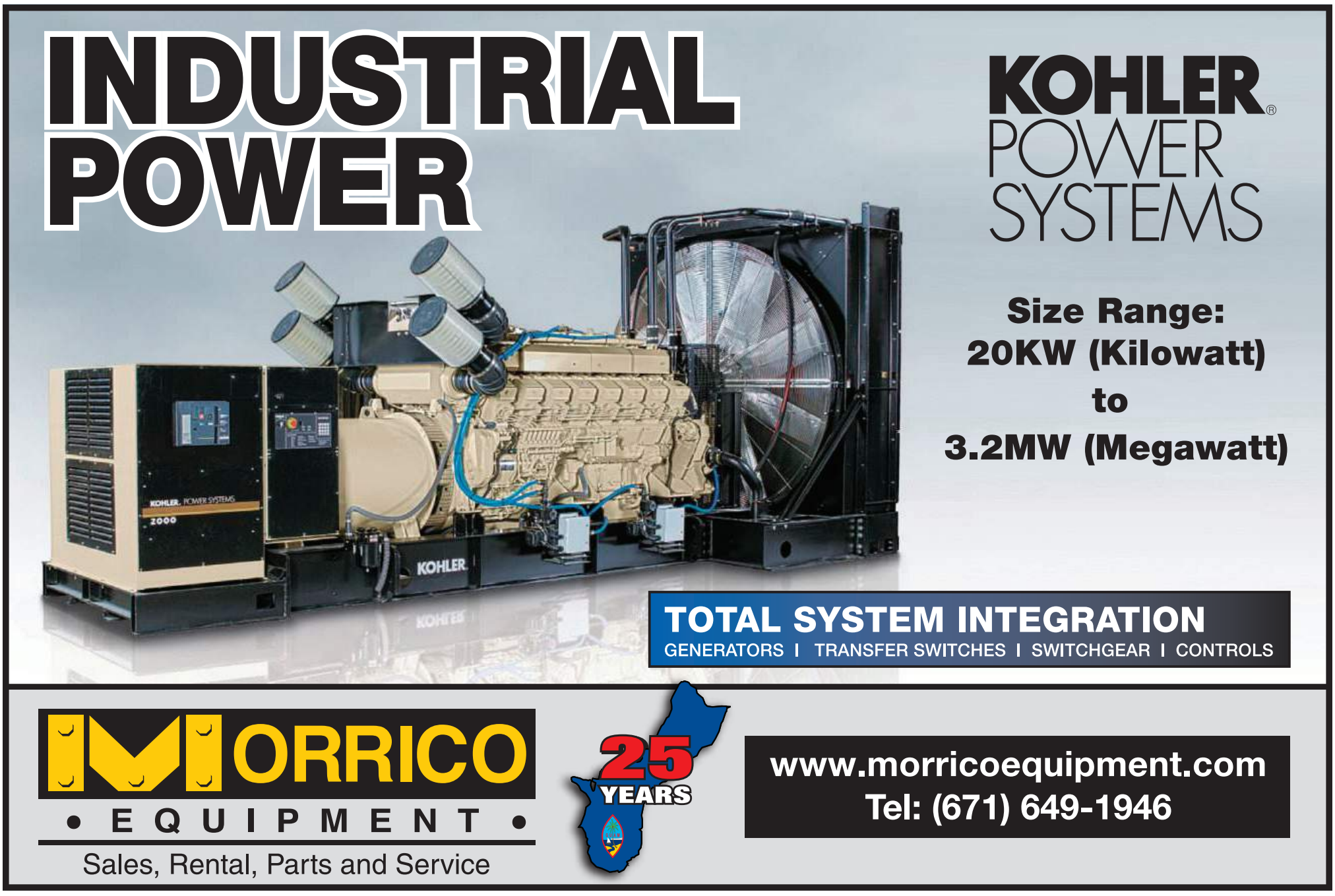

Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody’s business.
The Marianas
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

What Optional Tours do Visitors Like?

Let’s find out more about our visitors, based on the Marianas Visitors Authority’s latest visitor exit survey covering August through September 2017. Here’s what visitors shared with us before their departure from The Marianas:

Who Participated

Nearly three-fourths of visitors to The Marianas overall participated in at least one optional tour during their stay (74%), including 75% from Korea, 74% from China, and 71% from Japan.

Which Optional Tours

Of the optional tours joined, Managaha Tour was the most frequently mentioned (81%), followed by Snorkeling Tour (45%), Island Tour (20%), Jungle Tour (20%), Sunset Dinner Cruise (12%), Marine-Related Tours (12%), Nature Tours/Non-Marine (9%), General Amusement (6%), Diving (6%), Cultural Tours (6%), Other (6%), and Golf (2%). While about the same number of visitors from Japan, Korea, and China took a Managaha Tour (81%), relatively more visitors from Korea took a Snorkeling Tour (57%) and relatively more visitors from China took an Island Tour (40%) or Jungle Tour (29%).

Upcoming Events

- **Hell of The Marianas**
  December 2, 2017
- **Christmas in The Marianas**
  Every Saturday evening in December
  Paseo de Marianas

40 Years 1976-2016
www.mymarianas.com

UNFORTUNATELY

From Page 2

think the CNMI can amend the legislation at this point. There's no momentum and the CNMI's voice in Washington, D.C. is very small," Knight said in an email interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

There's little appetite among political leaders in the Capitol to listen and give a break to a remote U.S. territory when there are other large issues on their plate, she added.

"They also don't want to set a precedent when much larger immigration issues are on the move. Look at the end of [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals], the end of the lottery system, the end of status for people from Nicaragua, Haiti, etc.," Knight added.

While no longer a CNMI resident, Knight remains updated on issues that pertain to the Commonwealth.

"…But if I were still there running a business I would be hiring and mentoring as many locals as I could and also looking seriously at alternatives. There are a number of places in the U.S. that have unemployed people. There are some good programs that businesses are undertaking to hire and train locals like the Northern Marianas [Technical] Institute, the tourism club for students, etc.," she added.

Knight

Knight cited Puerto Rico as an example where the CNMI can recruit manpower. "Their economy nearly collapsed and as many as 200,000 people have left to try to find a more comfortable place to live and work. Puerto Ricans know island life and many are experienced with tourism," she said.

"Another source of tourism workers could be places in the U.S. that are just seasonal tourist destinations or are experiencing layoffs. There are two hotels in South Florida, for example, that have announced a total of 600 layoffs," Knight added.

She still hears of incidences of U.S. citizens feeling like they're not being given a chance in the CNMI.

"Some businesses would rather hang on to their long-time, trusted foreign workers. I don't know why people thought the law would change after the transition period. The legislative intent was very clear," she said.

Amidst the CW-1 cutbacks under P.L. 110-229, there are still a number of mega construction projects being planned that are largely tourism based.

"Tourism will always be the CNMI's No. 1 industry and, unfortunately, it is labor intensive...Honestly, I can't see how new hotels with thousands of rooms could be built or staffed with the planned reductions of CW permits," Knight said.

Rather than continuing to build thousands of rooms and planning for an economy that requires large numbers of tourists, she believes there is another way.

"It might be a better strategy to gradually go upscale and welcome smaller numbers, paying higher prices. Less tourists would also have less adverse impact on the environment," she said.

"Take a look at what Palau is doing. Going upscale and limiting capacity would require a commitment and collaborated effort, with champions to make it happen," Knight added.

Knight also served as vice president of TanHoldings. She was also the director of the Economic Development Programs for Management Analysis, Inc. consulting with local and federal government clients in six states.

Knight is currently vice president of Knowledge Management and Development of the International Economic Development Council in Washington, D.C.

mazda HYUNDAI MITSUBISHI

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7H247	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H251~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H257	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H258	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H259~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
~~7H260~~	~~RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H261	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H270	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H272~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
2017 VELOSTER			
~~7H220~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$17,995~~
~~7H233~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$17,995~~
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H263	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H264	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
2017 TUCSON			
7H262	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
~~7H268~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$21,995~~
7H274	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H278	PEARL, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H309	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H310	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H311	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H312	ORANGE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995

MITSUBISHI

2017 OUTLANDER SE			
~~7M037~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$25,995~~
7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995
7M040	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995

mazda

2018 MAZDA 3		DISCOUNT	PRICE
8D058	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D060	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D061	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D062	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D063	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D026	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
~~8D037~~	~~RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$5,000~~	~~$17,995~~
8D040	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D041	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D042	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995
2017 MAZDA 6			
~~7D242~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, TOURING~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$21,995~~
2017 MX-5			
7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
~~7D203~~	~~RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP~~ SOLD	~~$8,000~~	~~$25,995~~
2018 CX-3 SPORT			
~~8D043~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
~~8D048~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D051	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995

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Okeanos Marianas returns from Guam

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The *Okeanos Marianas* crew recently arrived back on Saipan after a weeklong voyage to Guam.

The crew of nine aboard the *Okeanos Marianas* set out for their voyage to Guam nearly three weeks ago and returned to Saipan last Friday.

According to Emma Perez, managing director of Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD., the company that runs the *Okeanos Marianas,* this was her first open-ocean voyage.

Perez and the rest of the *Okeanos Marianas* crew first journeyed to Rota last Wednesday in time to deliver bikes for the Rota Blue Triathlon. Perez said it took approximately 12 hours for them to reach Rota where they stayed the night before heading on to Guam.

Perez said they were greeted with a warm welcome on Rota. "It was a really nice trip. We got there and we were welcomed with food and dancers," she said.

The crew then set off for Guam the next day. Perez said the trip from Rota to Guam took approximately 10 hours and they were welcomed with an emotional ceremony. "Guam was really emotionally touched," said Perez.

When they arrived in Guam's Hagatna Boat Basin, a chorus of *Culus* greeted them. "As we were coming in from the harbor, at least six big shells were being blown and many people came out to meet us and told me there wasn't a dry eye on the shore," she said.

Upon arriving in Guam, their first interaction was when Perez's uncle sailed out to meet her with his own boat called *Kerida,* which brought Perez to tears. "He came out to look for me," she said.

After Perez and her crew accomplished what they had set out to do in Guam, which was to bring home lumber to refurbish another vessel, the *Roberta L.*, they made their way back to Saipan.

According to Perez, the only struggle they faced that delayed their trip back home was the direction of the winds but it was not anything they couldn't handle.

Perez said their next trip would probably be a voyage to the Northern Islands before their big flotilla.

Perez said her takeaway from her first voyage experience would have to be the realization that the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam are not as far apart from one another as it may seem.

"It was really interesting how you could see one island from the next. We think we're really isolated but when you're out in the water, we're not," she said.

Bill adjusting FY '18 budget passes House

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives last Tuesday unanimously passed a measure that adjusts the fiscal year 2018 budget, noting critical expenditures essential for the operation of a semi-autonomous government agency.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-135, a bill that tweaks the fiscal year 2018 budget in order to reflect critical expenditures the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs to function, passed the House after garnering the unanimous support of all 20 members last week.

According to Demapan, CUC unintentionally left out key expenses such as the purchase of fuel, oil, and others. However, these do not affect the fiscal year 2018 budget since CUC uses its own revenue for operations.

"CUC comes up with their own budget because it is their own revenue. We don't provide general funds to CUC, just like the Department of Public Lands. They [both] use the money they make," said Demapan, adding that prior to allowing both agencies to push through with their expenditures, both DPL and CUC budgets must first be approved by the Legislature.

Demapan

The total difference in budgets is a little over $101 million. Prior to H.B. 20-135, CUC asked for a total budget of $141.8 million; the bill, if enacted, bumps up the expenditures to $242.9 million.

"There were some budget items that were inadvertently left out, the biggest one being the budget to purchase fuel for the power plant," said Demapan. "This bill revises their budget per their request so that they can be allowed to use the money to purchase fuel."

Since CUC and DPL are autonomous agencies, both agencies—along with a few others—should first seek approval for their budget, which is derived from their revenues.

"There is still that legislative oversight because we are the appropriations authority, so if that is left open, then there are no rules and structure. …Having these checks and balances ensures there is accountability on how much is spent on personnel and how much is spent on operations," said Demapan.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho, who attended the session with several key employees of CUC said they were "extremely happy."

"We get a lot of pressure early on this year and I think we try to put a budget together and we did. However, there was a couple of key components that were missing," he said, adding that the addition of fuel, engine maintenance, and the purchase of oil were "critical to [CUC] programs" and had to be inserted.

"It's wonderful to get 100 percent support on it," he said.

H.B. 20-135 now heads to the Senate for action.

DPS

From Page 1

said yesterday that after the search-and-rescue operation on the *My Lady* vessel was called off Saturday afternoon, they did not resume the search.

Tarkong said DPS Saipan has not received any report of any overdue vessel or missing boat.

However, he said he can't speak for U.S. Coast Guard Guam, and that he also did not receive any report from Rota and Tinian.

He said they could not find the distressed vessel at the location that was given by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Tarkong said he spoke with DPS Saipan Boating Safety Section officers, who told him that there are a couple of boats on the island that have *My Lady* as their first names, but no vessel with just the name *My Lady*.

"We are still investigating anybody who reported of a distressed or overdue vessel. As of this time, nothing," he said.

Tarkong said that DPS received a call from USCG Guam on Saturday at about 10:40am, reporting a distress call from a vessel identified as *My Lady* over the VHF marine radio channel 16. DPS Boating Safety Section then launched its search and rescue boat to conduct a search 20 miles west of Saipan. The USCG also launched a rescue vessel and helicopter to assist the search.

CHCC

From Page 1

Health Center, which CHCC operates, already has a nurse that CHCC had applied for an EB-2 visa. Many of CHC's nurses are Filipino nationals.

"Because the process of changing status is a complicated process, the [CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program] is a way for them to work for us while they are waiting for their new status. Because one cannot be out of status when they are here," she said.

"If you don't have a status, that's a problem. Then they would have to leave. What has happened was the CW has been a savior and helped tide us over for a lot of our staff converting to H1B or EB-2 because of that CW availability. That's another reason why CW should be kept," she added.

Muña said it is taking time for USCIS to process green cards for their staff and it doesn't come as fast as they expected it to be.

"It has been over a year and there is progress but the outcome is not there yet. I don't think we have time to transfer or change the status of our nurses. If the [program] ends in 2019 and we don't have the nurses converted to changed status then we are going to be [in trouble]," she said.

While waiting for the EB-2 visa process to be done, CHC nurses would need to exit the CNMI because they will be staying illegally.

"We realize that the process takes time and the benefit the CW status allows is they can stay legally on island while they are changing their status," she added.

Muña said it's always unfortunate when a professional health worker is sent home while waiting for USCIS to approve his or her new status.

"We need that individual to work here in the hospital and the CW program allows them to stay legally. When they are sent home, it makes the process unproductive. We spend for overtime and, since you are covering for that employee that left, there is strain to the employees that would have to work more hours to cover for that employee," she said.

"The reality is, CW is more than just filling a spot. It is an important factor during the conversion and the hospital needs that spot," Muña added.

She said the community needs to accept that CW-1 visa holders can be entitled to a green card.

"The CNMI needs to be open-minded to the idea that the nurses are likely going to get a green card. I've heard people hire a local but we are talking about health professionals that underwent training and education and continuously do so," she said.

"As much as we want to hire locals, many improvements have to be made in our education system. This is something that I want to work with [Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez] in the next year. We need to improve our college and we need to be able to open other fields because there are other fields aside from nursing too."

Muña cannot over-emphasize the need to have the CW-1 program.

"We need CWs because we want to make sure your staff is of legal status while changing status. CW is an opportunity where they can fall into a legal category that is essential because we need our workforce to be physically here so that we are able to manage our schedule and provide the service that the community needs," she added.

AMBER

From Page 1

Police responded to Chacha Street in Kagman 2 yesterday at 6:11am and met with Fitial's parents, who reported that the boy was last seen on Wednesday, Nov. 22, right before lunchtime.

DPS then issued an Amber Alert, a child abduction alert system. The alert was later cancelled when Fitial showed up at home.

Police learned that Fitial spent the last few days at his friends and other family member's residence.

"The investigation is ongoing," Tarkong said.

This is the second time that an Amber Alert was issued, only for the missing child to turn up later. In the first instance, Nov. 10, a 15-year-old girl was reported missing by her mother. She was later found walking home. It was learned that she had spent the day at another person's house.

CHRISTMAS

From Page 1

out to be quite popular among community members.

The village not only brings out the Christmas spirit but also brings joy to the children.

"It's really just to raise the Christmas spirit and to bring joy and tidings to the kids. I want it to be a place where anybody can come and find peace and joy and relax," said Torres.

According to her, most of this year's cottages belong to agencies that participated last year, with an addition of a few other companies. "We wanted to reach out to them first and we also tried to open up slots to accommodate other companies," she said.

This year, the participants were more enthusiastic about creating their cottages after the winning agency, the Department of Public Safety, set the standard quite high last year.

This year, the cottages will be judged and a winner will be chosen based on the judges' ruling and community votes.

Torres said the grand prize winner would receive $300, the runner-up would receive $200, and third place would receive $100.

Winners will also be chosen for the categories of most creative, best in theme, and people's choice.

The voting polls were opened during the lighting ceremony and will be open to the public every Tuesday up until Dec. 18.

Torres cited the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Department of Corrections, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, and many other sponsors. "They were a really big help, they were right behind me, they had my back throughout," she said.

According to one of the judges of the Christmas Village, Chavel Green, "these kind of activities to pull people together."

Green said she was amazed at the amount of time and effort spent just to put the village together.

Green said that each cottage also represented the amount of effort that was exerted just to give back to the community. "It shows how much the companies are giving back to the community by really taking the time to develop it, which shows their commitment," she said.

The village will be open to the public every night until the end of December, from 6pm to 9pm on the weekdays and 6pm to 11pm on weekends.

SESSION BREAK ERWIN ENCINARES
Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), left, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho exchange a few words during last week's House session on Capital Hill.

Torres: Refine bill's language to ban phone use while driving

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune,.com
REPORTER

Citing the "short-sighted nature of the language" of the bill, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoed last Wednesday a House bid that would restrict the use of cellular phones or mobile telephones while driving.

In Torres' transmittal letter to legislative leaders, he suggested that lawmakers "revisit" the restrictive language of House Bill 20-8, HS1, SD1.

"While I praise the Legislature for its efforts to address the public safety concerns regarding the widespread practice of using cellular telephones while [driving], I must recommend that the Legislature make due consideration of the short-sighted nature of the language used in this bill and its applicability in today's fast-changing age of technology," he said.

The governor found troubling the lack of a provision that would exempt emergency medical responders on official duty. "This express exemption is necessary for the purpose of granting our medical responders with the tools they need to effectively carry out their duties," he said.

Similarly, the bill also failed to include an exemption solely for making 911 emergency calls, Torres said.

He also believes that using the terms cellular/mobile telephones "narrowly" describes a wide selection of mobile gadgets that include other means of inputting text or calling, such as tablets.

"The Legislature should also consider expanding the restricted use of 'cellular/mobile telephones' to include the other uses of these devices along with talking and texting, such as taking photos, Snapchatting, reading or reviewing emails and electronic documents, or even using Facebook, which are all features widely used on mobile devices today," he said.

According to Torres, although public safety is an "important government objective," he stands firm in advising the Legislature to re-discuss the language of the bill.

"[While] I am exercising my constitutional authority to veto this bill, I respectfully recommend that the Legislature create the necessary amendments to HB 20-8, HS1, SD1 and reintroduce the bill should it see fit," he said.

HB 20-8 was offered by Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Ind-Saipan), the minority leader.

'Hitler is mentally ill'

» Judge OKs evaluation of defendant's competency

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 20-year-old man named Hitler Sem Weilbacher who allegedly stole a Toyota 4-Runner and a Toyota Highlander, has mental illness and Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig has asked the court to appoint a psychiatrist to check if Weilbacher is competent to stand trial.

Hartig, representing Weilbacher, has asked the Superior Court to stay the proceedings and to appoint the California-based psychiatrist, Dr. Martin Blinder, or another forensic psychologist to perform a competency evaluation on Weilbacher.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted Hartig's request yesterday, with the fee not to exceed $1,500.

Hartig said that at the Nov. 17, 2017, hearing, Weilbacher appeared to have difficulty understanding the proceedings and was having difficulty communicating with him and associate judge Wesley Bogdan.

Hartig said he is of the opinion that Weilbacher cannot meaningfully assist in his own defense.

He disclosed that Weilbacher was diagnosed with mental illness earlier this year, that Blinder found Weilbacher last Feb. 4 to be incompetent to stand trial in a previous criminal case.

Police arrested Weilbacher last Nov. 16 shortly after he allegedly stole a Toyota 4-Runner from a parking lot of a store on Capital Hill.

Police also arrested him last June 21 at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao, where a stolen Toyota Highlander was recovered and later returned to the owner.

2017 Christmas Village

First lady Diann Torres kicks off the lighting ceremony for her foundation's Christmas Village during the lighting ceremony last Sunday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Dozens of children pose in front of the enormous Christmas tree at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center that was lit during the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village lighting ceremony last Sunday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Hundreds of people take photos of the Christmas-themed cottage displays at the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village that was lit last Sunday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A fireworks show officially opens the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village last Sunday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village located in the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center was lit last Sunday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Department of Public Safety built a Willy Wonka-themed cottage that is displayed at the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Children admire one of the cottages displayed at the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village last Sunday after the lighting ceremony.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Joeten Enterprises built a star-shaped cottage that is displayed at the Lady Diann Torres Foundation Christmas Village at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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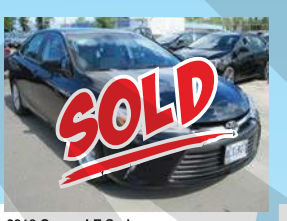

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NOW $28,499*

2015 Tacoma Double Cab
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4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-127L
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NOW $30,599*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Blue, STK#U17-116R
NOW $30,599*

2014 Tacoma DC
4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T
NOW $30,599*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Gray, STK#U17-107R
NOW $30,799*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
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2014 Tacoma Double Cab
4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
NOW $31,399*

2015 Toyota Sienna LE
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IT&E's Oehlerking is Executive of the Year nominee

BARRIGADA, Guam—The *Guam Business* magazine announced yesterday the eight nominees for its Executive of the Year for 2017, including IT&E chief executive officer James Oehlerking.

The annual Executive of the Year award program recognizes executives who have made outstanding contributions to the business communities of Micronesia and who have raised the bar in their fields.

The other nominees are William D. Beery, vice president and general manager of Tutujan Hill Group Ltd., which does business as Micronesian Builders; Sanjay Dewan, president of Port of Mocha Coffee House; Christopher K. Felix, president and principal broker of Century 21 Realty Management Co. Inc.; Siska S. Hutapea, president of Cornerstone Valuation Guam Inc.; Leonard K. Kaae, senior vice president and general manager of Black Construction Corp.; Annette T. Santos, dean of the School of Business and Public Administration at University of Guam; and Steven Solberg, general manager of Outrigger Guam Beach Resort • Keith J. Stewart, president of Pacific Rim Group of Companies.

The magazine's statement yesterday identified Oehlerking as CEO of PTI Pacifica Inc., which does business as IT&E.

The winner will be revealed at the Executive of the Year award gala on Jan. 13, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Guam, together with the release of the January-February 2018 issue of the magazine, which will feature a commissioned portrait of the winner on the cover.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the American Red Cross-Guam Chapter. Tickets are available for $200 per person and may be purchased from Chita A. Blaise, CEO of the American Red Cross, by calling (671) 472-6217 or by emailing chita.blaise@redcross.org.

Past Executive of the Year recipients with ties to the CNMI include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Jerry Tan of TanHoldings Corp. (2009); George Chiu of TanHoldings Corp. (2013); Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc. and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); and Jose C. "Joe" Ayuyu of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, RJ Corp. and RJ Guam LLC (2016). ***(PR)***

CNMI OSHA holds outreach training

Thirty-three participants from different businesses attend a two-day outreach training on OSHA Recordkeeping Requirement on Oct. 24 and 26, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Division of CNMI-OSHA under the CNMI Department of Labor conducted a two-day outreach training on OSHA Recordkeeping Requirement on Oct. 24 and 26, 2017.

Thirty-three participants from different businesses attended the training, which emphasized the importance of completeness and accuracy when recording injury/illness cases as well as reporting serious injury/health and death.

Participants learned to differentiate between reportable/recordable, first aid and medical treatment beyond first aid cases; work-related injury/illness and severity criteria for recording workplace injury.

The training program focused on ways to improve an employer's understanding and to comply with standards, rules and regulation issued under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The same training will be done on Tinian and Rota. Other OSHA training includes Heat illness prevention, all about OSHA, compliance assistance and more.

Under the OSH law, the employer is responsible for reporting to the nearest OSHA office all work-related fatalities within 8 hours, and all work-related inpatient hospitalizations, all amputations and loss of an eye within 24 hours. Employers are advised to establish recordkeeping and maintain injury/illness records for a minimum of five years.

Employers under federal OSHA's jurisdiction were required to begin reporting by Jan. 1, 2015. Establishments in a state with a state-run OSHA program should contact their state plan for the implementation date.

Onsite Consultation Program

The CNMI-OSHA Consultation Program is funded by federal OSHA through a cooperative agreement under the Department of Labor. The program offers expertise of highly qualified safety and health consultants to employers who request help to establish and maintain a safe and health workplace. Comprehensive assistance that is available goes well beyond the minimum requirements of OSHA. It includes appraisal of all mechanical systems, physical work practices, and environmental hazards of safety of the work place, and all aspects of the employer's present job safety and health program. Assistance is also available to employers wishing to develop and implement an effective workplace safety and health concerns plan.

To learn more about CNMI-OSHA Outreach training, contact Mariana Coates on Ascension Drive, Capital Hill Bldg. 1338 or call the office at (670) 664-3156/7 or fax (670) 664-3157, or email Coates at coats.mariana@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Birthday reception for Japan emperor

Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda will host a reception in honor of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan at the Fiesta Hall of the Grandvrio Resort on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm. Around 150 guests from the CNMI government, Legislature, mayors' offices, business circles, the Japanese community and others are expected to join the reception. Emperor Akihito will become 84 years old on Dec. 23, and his birthday is celebrated as a national holiday in Japan. Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Saipan on June 27 and 28, 2005.

Learn how to manage stress at SHRM meeting

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will feature two stress management experts—Wilma Villanueva and Christopher Cabrera of the Community Guidance Center's Wellness Center—at its Nov. 30 membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(PR)***

Small craft advisory

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Tuesday, for the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Combined seas of 8 to 10 feet will reach 10 to 12 feet today. These will be hazardous for operators of small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. ***(PR)***

CCA film screening today

As part of its Oral Cancer Health Forum Program, the Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the public to its screening of the oral cancer documentary titled *Chew* today, Nov. 28, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center theater. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA to host Excel workshop

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, is inviting all members to this year's workshop on advanced Microsoft Excel. The workshop will be on Dec. 2, 2017, a Saturday, from 8:30am to 12pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Registration starts at 8am.

There will be a $5 fee to cover incidentals. Non-members are welcome for a $15 seminar fee. Seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Most importantly, please bring your own laptop.

For reservation and more details, check the MIFICPA Facebook page or call or email any of the officers: Angie Mamaril at 783-1857 (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com); Lois Manese at 286-8663 (eloisa_manese@yahoo.com); Cris Bucalig at 287-0945 (cris_bong@yahoo.com) or Gloria Balila at 989-6284 (mgmbalila@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

CUC ADVISORIES

Power interruption on Dec. 2

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am to allow line crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio.

This is part of an ongoing Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Project that involves replacing 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. A total of 480 wooden poles have been already that have yet to be replaced.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (2nd partial), which covers San Antonio Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan (Batto Pl., Bunita Pl., Aluda Pl., and Asuli Pl.). No water well will be affected. Sewer lift stations that will be affected are: A-1, A-2, & A-16.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

Water service outage in Dandan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption in Dandan from Nov. 29 through Nov. 30, 2017, from 1pm to 5pm. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., will be replacing a 6-inch water gate valve. As a result to the new valve, a more effective and efficient water operation will be provided to the community. For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Torres signs Tinian appropriation bill

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law Tinian Local Bill 20-42, D3, which appropriates $116,000 from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines on Tinian. This bill became Tinian Local Law 20-08. ***(PR)***

Korea's *Tour de Monde* to feature the CNMI

Monthly travel magazine *Tour de Monde* will feature the Marianas in its January 2018 issue, bringing an estimated $72,000 ad exposure for the islands.

Tour de Monde, known as the archetypal travel magazine among the traveling public in South Korea with 70,000 monthly circulations, sent its editor-in-chief and a photographer to the Marinas on Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2017.

Monthly travel magazine *Tour de Monde* will feature the Marianas in its January 2018 issue, bringing an estimated $76,000 ad exposure for the islands. MVA

"*Tour de Monde* is considered an outstanding travel-specialized magazines," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The anticipated ad exposure is tremendous and will feature an in-depth look at food, indigenous culture, art, and leisure activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, with a special highlight of the unique brews and island-style barbecue of our first Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival earlier this month."

In addition to the 10-page magazine article, the Marianas will be featured on the magazine's official website, Facebook page, and Naver blog.

Sites visited on Rota included Teteto Beach, Songsong Village Lookout, I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary, Swimming Hotel, Wedding Cake Mountain, As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry, Senbon Yashi, and trolling.

Sites visited on Tinian included Taga Beach, Tachogna Beach, Blow Hole, Ushi Cross, Chulu Beach, Broadway, Long Beach, and House of Taga.

Sites visited on Saipan include Ladder Beach, Obyan Beach, Micro beach, Kalabera Cave, Banzai Cliff, Grotto, Bird Island Lookout, Mt. Tapochao, and a jungle tour.

The tour was supported by Fiesta Resort & Spa, Tinian Ocean View Hotel, and Rota Resort & Country Club. ***(MVA)***

Pohnpei set to apply family safety measure

POHNPEI, FSM—Key government and civil society stakeholders met in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia on Nov. 15-16 to prepare the implementation plan for the landmark Pohnpei Family Safety Bill, passed by the Ninth Pohnpei Legislature on Nov. 7 2017.

The Pohnpei State Department of Health Services together with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team facilitated this meeting to unpack and map out key strategies for the Pohnpei state government to ensure support for the implementation of the bill.

The new legislation defines family violence, establishes family violence offenses, and sets out protective mechanisms that can be accessed by victims of family violence. The legislation is the first of its kind for Pohnpei and, as a result, a key objective of the consultation was to increase understanding and awareness of the content and implications of the Pohnpei Family Safety Bill.

Participants were able to gather information and share ideas for the development of the implementation plan. Issues covered included an examination of the gaps among social service providers, options for filling those gaps and public information strategies.

During the meeting, SPC acknowledged the Pohnpei state government for being the second FSM state, after Kosrae, to have passed legislation specifically addressing family violence.

Reflecting on the effort and dedication that has been put into the legislation, RRRT acting director Nicol Cave said, "This is a milestone for the Pohnpei state government and for the Federated States of Micronesia, and we congratulate them on this important step toward ensuring the safety, protection and wellbeing of families. SPC RRRT looks forward to continuing its support for Pohnpei and helping to ensure the full implementation of the Family Safety Bill."

Cave also acknowledged the role of the Australian government in supporting the work of RRRT. "This consultation was made possible through the financial support of Australia. Thanks to that support, Pohnpei has been able to immediately commence discussion on its implementation plan for this historic legislation."

RRRT is also providing ongoing support to the FSM to meet its commitments under key international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The FSM states of Pohnpei and Kosrae join the nations of Nauru, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in developing and officially introducing Family Protection legislation. ***(SPC)***

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EDITORIAL

Elephants' reprieve: How about the rest of the animal kingdom?

There is no shortage of cute elephant videos on YouTube, and the millions of views they've recorded demonstrate why. Elephants are exceptionally smart. They can use tools. They respond to the human voice, and they demonstrate empathy toward other creatures. And, frankly, there are few sights more joyful than watching a baby elephant splashing around in a mud puddle. From its preposterous nose and floppy ears to its ambling gait, an elephant at any age can make a child smile—Dumbo and Horton set the fictional standard, but real elephants remain one of the most popular attractions at every zoo.

That's why at some level President Donald Trump's unexpected defense of elephants in Zimbabwe—putting the brakes on a recent government ruling to permit U.S. hunters to bring home "trophy" elephants killed in that country—shouldn't be all that surprising, particularly from such an id-driven executive. He tellingly went straight to his emotions, calling big-game hunting a "horror show," which was pretty amazing considering that his sons are avid hunters. A photograph of Donald Trump Jr. from years ago proudly holding up the severed tail of a hunted elephant has become a popular Internet meme.

President Trump made the right choice. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made the wrong one. The notion that big game hunting of elephants in Zimbabwe might have actually been in their best interest—essentially creating a lucrative reason, tourism, for keeping more elephants alive and opposing poaching and using hunting fees to prop up conservation efforts—might have made some sense in a better functioning country. But the practice begun under President Barack Obama to ban the trade of African elephant ivory is the better approach, and all parts of the elephant ought to be treated the same. The less reason to kill elephants the better.

Allow us to repeat ourselves: President Trump made the right choice. We don't often get a chance to write that, so please pardon the redundancy. The question is this: Assuming that the president's decision holds up as he does his further research on the subject, might Mr. Trump demonstrate such kindness to other species? Elephants are cute, the gray bat is not, yet it's the bat, a native of North America including the U.S. Southwest, that's been driven closest to extinction. Would Mr. Trump demonstrate an elephant-like level of empathy for a species that doesn't get the YouTube views?

That's not exactly a hypothetical question. Already during his first year in office, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior under Secretary Ryan Zinke have made a number of decisions antithetical toward animal conservation. Mr. Trump's support for oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could be disastrous for millions of acres of pristine wilderness and the animals from caribou to wolverines that live in northeastern Alaska. Why doesn't the destruction of an ecosystem count as a "horror show" as well?

Close to home, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recently decided that commercial fishermen should

See ELEPHANTS' on Next Page

Well what is the democratic message?
We did not make any money from the Russian Uranium deal!
The Hillary Tour! What Happened!
Gasp!! I've never seen them before in my life!!
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Thanks to those who do the right thing

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

In a year like this one, people show what they're made of. Are we content to live with the train wreck playing out in Washington, an administration that lurches, crows and saber-rattles with disregard for decency, truth and individual rights? Or do we have the courage to call it out and demand better?

Do we treat the tsunami of sex-abuse allegations against powerful, prominent men in entertainment, media and politics as a set of unfortunate coincidences? Or do we acknowledge there is something seriously wrong in our culture whose root causes need exploring and addressing?

Will we passively step aside and let a foreign government meddle in our elections because a would-be president invited its help in digging up dirt on his opponent?

The answer: No, we won't. For as tumultuous a year as it has been, testing core American values, people have pushed back and stood in the way of significant disruption. Since this is a day for giving thanks, let's focus on them.

It's a more daunting task to challenge a leader of your own party. John McCain, the longstanding Republican Arizona senator who blew his chances of becoming president when he named Sarah Palin his running mate, has distinguished himself this year with his truth-telling. He has called out Donald Trump many times for his tone and fought his agenda, citing the president's "crackpot conspiracy theories," as well as isolationism, protectionism and nativism.

Thanks to him and some other Republicans in Congress, including Susan Collins of Maine, Trump repeatedly failed to get the much-needed Obamacare rescinded. Collins and McCain were also among a group of Republicans _ including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Mitt Romney, Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Jeff Flake and Cory Gardner _ who, without having to be prodded, called on Roy Moore to drop out of the Alabama Senate race.

The president says Alabama voters should decide the fate of Moore, who is alleged to have made sexual advances on multiple teenage girls (one of them 14) while in his 30s. Then again, with a dozen or more women accusing Trump of sexual misconduct, anything Trump says could backfire on him.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, meanwhile, said she believed Moore's accusers but also made it clear she would take a child abuser over a Democrat in that seat. Heaven help us.

The number of sexual harassment or assault accusations against prominent men is making it feel like we're living through an epidemic. And they include men many of us would consider enlightened or progressive, who might even call themselves feminists. There's Democratic Minnesota senator and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Al Franken; actor Kevin Spacey; comedian Louis C.K.; and celebrated TV journalist Charlie Rose. And 80 women have named movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

The fact that these claims involving people with authority are so ubiquitous is deeply disturbing. But the fact that so many women and even men have been emboldened to speak up about their experiences, prompted in part by the #MeToo hashtag, is progress. Instead of shaming and stigmatizing victims into silence, we're beginning to put the blame where it belongs. Thank you Leigh Corfman, Leeann Tweeden and many others.

Some Republican members of Congress also deserve thanks for recognizing that people who were too young to have any say in the matter when they were brought to America and raised here should have the right to call America home.

And thanks are due the nine Republicans senators, including Iowa's Joni Ernst, who came out against Trump's decision to ban transgender people from the military for no good reason.

Thanks to federal district court judges in Maryland, Hawaii and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit for having the guts to state the obvious in rejecting the president's travel bans on people from particular countries: that they were biased against Muslims.

And on the subject of foreign arrivals, I have a thank you that is personal. Late last week, a federal court in New York State ordered the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia to stop holding asylum seekers who are awaiting hearings on their claims of fleeing violence or political persecution without fair access to parole or bond. The officials at Batavia reportedly had stopped granting parole releases in January after Trump took office. Some applicants have been imprisoned many months without a bond hearing. The New York Civil Liberties Union and the International Refugee Assistance Project at the Urban Justice Center sued and won. My daughter-in-law Aadhithi Padmanabhan is one of the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union attorneys who handled the case. Thanks, Aadhithi.

In fact, ACLU chapters everywhere deserve a round of thanks. They've had a busy year fighting encroachments on civil liberties. So do Planned Parenthood chapters, especially our own Iowa-Nebraska one, for carrying the torch for women's health in the face of defunding.

It's in times like these that leadership shows itself, when people do the right thing regardless of potential costs. Thanks to all of you who do.

Alabama's Roy Moore Is Pure Steve Bannon

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Roy Moore is the Steve Bannon project in a nutshell.

For the former Trump operative, the Alabama Senate candidate's tattered credibility is a feature, not a bug. If Moore had well-considered political and legal views, good judgment and a sterling reputation, he'd almost by definition be part of the establishment that Bannon so loathes. Since Moore has none of those things, he's nearly an ideal representative of the Bannon insurgency.

Events in Alabama make it clear that Bannon's dime-store Leninism—burn everything down, including perhaps the Republican Senate majority—comes at a considerable cost. In this enterprise, the truth and standards don't matter. Being anti-establishment is an escape clause from personal responsibility, and #war means proudly defending the indefensible.

It's no accident that Bannon ended up joined at the hip to the one Republican in the state of Alabama who might be capable of losing a Senate race. Bannon went out of his way to associate himself with Moore, and to make the former judge—twice jettisoned from the state's highest court—a poster boy for his style of politics.

There are two options in terms of Bannon's role in Alabama.

If he's the Svengali he portrays himself as, he's falling down on the job. It appears Bannon didn't do thorough opposition research on his own candidate, a standard professional practice, and couldn't prevail on Moore to get his story straight before talking to the media.

Then there's the option that Bannon is simply a glorified bystander in Alabama, which is consistent with the fact that Moore would have almost certainly won the primary with or without Bannon's support. Donald Trump was Donald Trump long before Bannon showed up, and, sure enough, he's been Donald Trump since Bannon left the White House.

Ultimately, Bannon is a barnacle on the Trump brand, although one that can't get his story straight. Sometimes he says the Trump administration is effectively over, in which case he's implicitly saying that his erstwhile boss abandoned his voters within a year of taking office.

Bannon doesn't dare follow this thought through to its logical conclusion. Instead, he inveighs against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Bannon's argument that a globalist cabal has coalesced to thwart Trump's agenda in Washington is contemptible nonsense. Obamacare repeal and replace failed in the Senate, not because McConnell wasn't determined to pass it, but because three Senate Republicans went their own way despite McConnell's good-faith efforts.

If Moore were in the Senate, he'd presumably be a reliable Republican vote like any other Alabama senator. The only difference is that he hates McConnell. Is that worth the reputational risk to the party of being associated with such a compromised figure? If there is a new Republican Senate leader in the next Congress, he sure as hell isn't going to be a bomb thrower (Senate leaders never are). So what's the point?

Apparently to find an unbelievably checkered collection of Senate candidates, and to put Senate seats at risk by nominating them, no matter what their electoral appeal or vulnerabilities. Steve Bannon wants as many Roy Moores as possible.

A humble suggestion to improve our politics

By KYLE WINGFIELD
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Angels do not govern men, a fact we face more and more often.

The U.S. Senate last week alone featured one member who may face an ethics investigation (Robert Menendez of New Jersey, whose corruption case ended in a mistrial), one member who asked for an ethics investigation into himself (Al Franken of Minnesota, accused of sexually assaulting a woman on a USO tour 11 years ago) and one aspiring member threatened with possible expulsion if he wins office (Roy Moore of Alabama, accused of inappropriate relationships with teenage girls decades ago).

Morality and its counterpart, hypocrisy, are again front and center in the political debate. Moore is of course an outspoken evangelical Christian who rose to prominence after installing, and defying a federal court order to remove, a 2-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama state courthouse. Franken is a proponent of Obama-era guidelines for handling sexual assault and harassment cases on college campuses, rules which curtail due-process rights for the accused.

We could indeed use more virtue in the public arena. Might I suggest an oft-forgotten one: humility.

Many a victorious candidate speaks of being "humbled" by the electorate's approval. Too few maintain that sentiment once in office.

Power can do that. But so can all that goes with it: cameras and microphones, ritual and pomp, flattery and favor-seeking. All of this grows as one moves up the ladder. Some stay humble, but many don't.

What takes humility's place? Here are some guesses based on observation: Out-sized confidence in one's ideas and their impact on thousands, millions, hundreds of millions of other people at a time. A sense of being indispensable, even irreplaceable. A notion that one's mistakes, present or past, will remain conveniently unmentioned.

But the biggest threat to humility is that we, the voters, are inconsistent at best about demanding it.

We ask who can do the most, the fastest, once in office. We score debates based on who offers the zingiest one-liners, no matter how many words they might have to eat later. We have turned our elections—and the higher you go, the truer this is—into such warped spectacles that few people with healthy amounts of ambition and self-regard even dare to enter them.

Think about our last two presidents: Mr. "I'm LeBron, baby" and Mr. "I alone can fix it."

Or consider the history of Roy Moore. Here is a man who calls himself a constitutional conservative, but who not once but twice was removed from the bench for refusing to submit to our constitutional order as it pertains to the judiciary.

He had the right to disagree with higher courts about religious displays in courthouses and same-sex marriage. He did not have the right to defy their orders. In the name of his principles, he became what he hated: an activist judge ignoring the rule of law.

There is nothing conservative about that. There is nothing constitutional about that. And there is nothing humble, or otherwise virtuous, about that. Yet here he is, perhaps on the verge of winning a statewide election for the third time.

Humility can be just an election away, but only if voters make sure of it.

LITERARY NOOK

A National Schism Called Trumpism

bene diserere est finis logicus (to carry on a disputation well is the end or purpose of logic)
—from Analytics of Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC)

Baptism—with Middle Eastern oil unguents, Saudi Arabian deals

Deconstructionism—of the Obama legacy

Euphemisms—relatively unknown to Bigly for use in public speaking

Fascism—all the bundles of sticks (fasces) on the backs of U.S. dimes bet he will never do time despite calls now to "Lock Him Up"

Fatalism—attitude of 45 toward gun laws, immigration, government

Generalism—policy on the spot the new normal, unable to articulate the formal, generalized ignorance in tweets every day

Terrorism—a domestic brand throughout the land, large ammo clips, short quips from 45 every day, unable to speak up to the NRA

Optimism—his Make America Great Again comes with clueless executive orders out of the barrel of his pen

Pessimism—from his inauguration speech to the Korean nuclear situation manifest US State Department diplomatic frustration

Racism - rears its ugly head in too many tweets with too much left unsaid

Patriotism- a Rio Grande wall ditch, calling a protesting athlete a SOB

Schism—the actual political division and $100+ fund raising plates throughout red and blue states

Communism and Socialism—an ungentle journey towards Bernie or Putin, Russian oligarchs rush to pay sure as shootin

Gee Whizims—"who ever thought?" the Presidency, Taxes, Health Care,

" could be so complicated?" Well …45 only.

Bozo's Cuss On and Off The Bus

I grabbed her by the …well you know the reality
that place, well from whence we all came
experiencing first hand my hard edged duality
she said no way, now ain't that a shame
I said but I'm a rich man, you know a star
my name's famous, don't you know who I am
she said go find a crack ho in the nearest bar
someday you'll say she was your Viet Nam
I'm trying the immigrants now on number three
can't deny what I said both on and off the bus
now more than a dozen accusers are after me
my evangelical base says no reason to fuss
I advise voters to pay no attention, just screw it
you know for sure, believe me, "only I can do it."

On A Tweet That Uses The Word Sad

Among the daily tweets sent out from my WH dump
as a computer screen fills my puerilistic policy planner
in my solitude, late evenings, in early morning hours
imprisoned in my small dumpy White House tower
repetition rules repeated very little reception to learning
twaddling stuff I'm still tough on the greens in the rough
circular logic around collusion sadness part of my illusion
the kids are doing their part delusion digs deep in my heart
again facing the atavistic avenue towards Penn's Woods
pushing legislation with Sisyphus up the Capitoline Hill
Wall Street banks my new billions and other ill gotten goods
I have yet to be satiated needing more for my stomach to fill
all alone at home with my cell phone or fingering my pad
belittling and fiddling while America burns I'm alone and sad.

ELEPHANTS'

From Page 10

be allowed to harvest more menhaden from the Atlantic Ocean. It was a troubling move considering how important the small fish is for the Chesapeake Bay food chain. But will the loss of those fish, which could prove costly to local striped bass and bluefish populations, touch any hearts in the White House? Probably not. Not much cuteness there either.

This conservation conundrum is known as the "Bambi effect," the tendency for people to rise to the defense of the cute and cuddly and have far less concern for organisms that are just as important to the ecosystem or just as endangered but not so adorable. So while we are grateful that President Trump is not so hard-hearted as to ignore the suffering of African elephants in Zimbabwe, it would be nice to discover he might be educated on the host of other species that aren't getting much love from his agencies. That list might include homo sapiens, by the way, who have been taking it on the chin, too. President Trump's choice to exit the Paris climate agreement and the EPA's current efforts to repeal the Clean Power Plan that reduces greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants spell serious trouble for mankind's long-term survival. Perhaps someone can explain to him that climate change isn't good for elephants either.

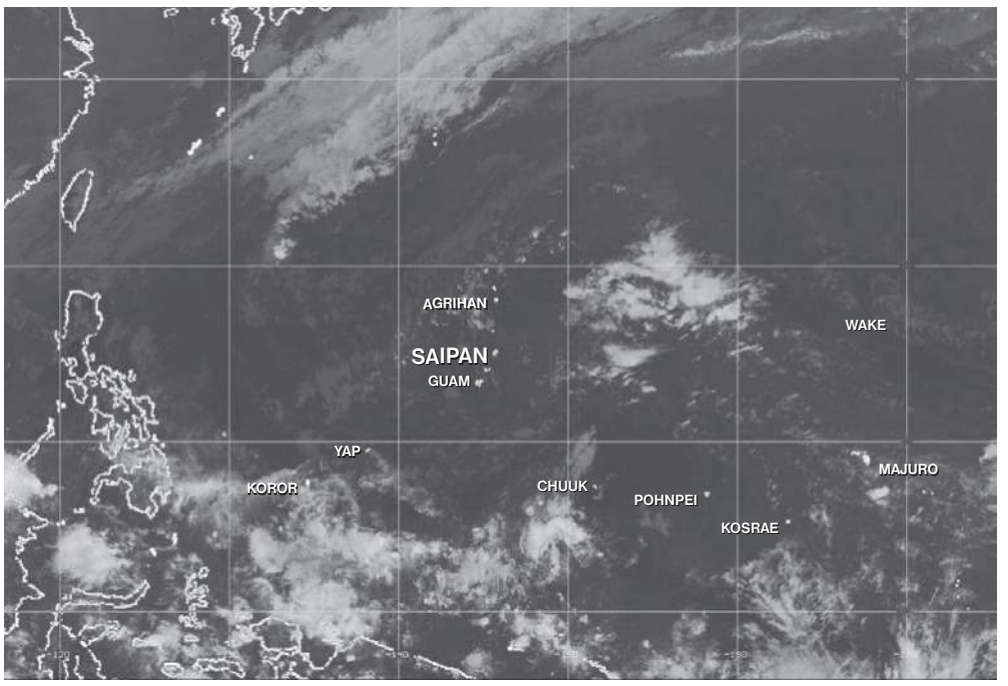
(c)2017 The Baltimore Sun

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:21 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fresh trades and isolated showers are found across the Marianas this morning. Out to the east, a large and vigorous upper-level low centered near 14N154E is producing showers and thunderstorms between 13N and 18N from 152E to 155E, roughly 500 miles east of the islands. Ritidian and Tanapag buoys are reporting combined seas near 10 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 19°
Hong Kong	Showers	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	93° / 70°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
New York	Sunny	57° / 47°
Osaka	Showers	64° / 52°
Paris	Showers	46° / 32°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°
Salem	Sunny	67° / 47°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	37° / 19°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Washington, DC	Sunny	61° / 43°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.32
8:24 AM	LOW TIDE	0.40
3:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91
10:07 PM	LOW TIDE	0.70

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:53 am	1:33 pm
Wednesday	-	1:45 am	2:15 pm
Thursday	-	2:39 am	2:59 pm
Friday	-	3:35 am	3:46 pm
Saturday	-	4:34 am	4:36 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Suit challenges Trump's pick for consumer financial bureau

By BERNARD CONDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

President Donald Trump's appointment of his budget director as interim director of a consumer financial protection agency championed by Democrats was challenged in a lawsuit filed in federal court Sunday night.

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2017 file photo, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney departs after a television interview at the White House in Washington.

Leandra English, the federal official elevated to the position of interim director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by its outgoing director, filed the suit against Trump and his choice, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney.

The suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia asked for a declaratory judgment and a temporary restraining order to block Mulvaney from taking over the bureau.

English cited the Dodd-Frank Act, which created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She said that as deputy director, she became the acting director under the law and argued that the federal law the White House contends supports Trump's appointment of Mulvaney doesn't apply when another statute designates a successor.

English was chief of staff to bureau director Richard Cordray when he named her deputy director as he prepared to resign last Friday. Cordray was appointed to the position by President Barack Obama and has been long criticized by congressional Republicans as overzealous.

The White House, with the support of an opinion issued Saturday by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, maintained that the president has the power to appoint an acting director. Steven A. Engel, newly confirmed head of the office, wrote that, while the deputy director may serve as acting director under the statute, the president still has authority under the Vacancies Reform Act.

A new director must be confirmed by the Senate. Earlier Sunday, Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the third-ranking GOP leader, pledged swift action whenever Trump nominates a successor to Cordray. Meanwhile, Thune said he expected that Mulvaney "will be on the job and he'll be calling the shots over there," but acknowledged the issue could end up in court.

Beyond the fight over who's in charge is the future direction of the bureau, created after the 2008 financial crisis and given a broad mandate as a watchdog for consumers when they deal with banks and credit card, student loan and mortgage companies, as well as debt collectors and payday lenders.

Beyond the workplace, a social problem

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Although you usually deal with workplace issues, I'm hoping you can help me with a social problem. I recently decided not to invite a longtime friend to a party because she is a nonstop talker. During our last get-together, she droned on and on while everyone else sat in silence.

Unfortunately, my attempt to encourage more participation did not work out as planned. Another guest dominated the discussion in exactly the same way. By the end of the party, I was exhausted from trying to maintain some conversational balance.

When I see my quieter friends individually, they always have a lot to say. However, they can't seem to get a word in edgewise with these chatterboxes. I have observed the same thing in meetings at work. Why do certain people refuse to let anyone else speak?

A: For some, talking is such a strong compulsion that it borders on a psychological disability. Even loving friends and family try to avoid being held hostage by their never-ending monologues. Sadly, many of these chronic talkers never recognize the problem because others are too polite to give them much-needed feedback.

Not all chatty people are uncontrollable conversation hogs, however. Some are simply trying to fill the vacuum left by those who are slower to speak up. When a group has members with extreme communication style differences, the silent folks may keep waiting for a chance to speak, while the talkers wonder why they aren't saying anything.

Since your collection of friends obviously includes both types, one possible solution is to socialize with them separately, combining them with others of their own kind. Conversation should flow easily in both groups, although undoubtedly at different speeds.

At gatherings where everyone is included, forget about social engineering and just let nature take its course. Talkative guests will chat, quiet ones will listen, and those who are unhappy can find new conversational partners. Meanwhile, you can relax and enjoy the party.

Q: I took my current job only because the owners of the company asked me to do so. Although we aren't personal friends, I have known them for quite awhile. Unfortunately, this has turned out to be a miserable experience because the manager at my location is an absolute nightmare.

"Sally" screams at employees for absolutely no reason and fabricates stories about people she dislikes. I've been told that she makes nasty comments about me behind my back. Although Sally has no power to fire me, she recently posted a help-wanted ad with a description of my job.

I have no idea what Sally is up to, but I have obviously been added to her list of targets. The owners are aware of Sally's abusive behavior, but they keep her around because she handles all the tasks they prefer not to do. What's your advice?

A: Given that the owners are willing to tolerate a tyrant for their own convenience, this situation isn't likely to improve anytime soon. So if I were you, I would take my talents elsewhere. And if these longtime acquaintances ask why you are leaving, give them a very clear picture of Sally's sadistic management style.

Veterans are key as surge of states OK medical pot for PTSD

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a telling setting for a decision on whether post-traumatic stress disorder patients could use medical marijuana.

Against the backdrop of the nation's largest Veterans Day parade, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced this month he'd sign legislation making New York the latest in a fast-rising tide of states to OK therapeutic pot as a PTSD treatment, though it's illegal under federal law and doesn't boast extensive, conclusive medical research.

Twenty-eight states plus the District of Columbia now include PTSD in their medical marijuana programs, a tally that has more than doubled in the last two years, according to data compiled by the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project. A 29th state, Alaska, doesn't incorporate PTSD in its medical marijuana program but allows everyone over 20 to buy pot legally.

The increase has come amid increasingly visible advocacy from veterans' groups .

Retired Marine staff sergeant Mark DiPasquale says the drug freed him from the 17 opioids, anti-anxiety pills and other medications that were prescribed to him for migraines, post-traumatic stress and other injuries from service that included a hard helicopter landing in Iraq in 2005.

"I just felt like a zombie, and I wanted to hurt somebody," says DiPasquale, a co-founder of the Rochester, New York-based Veterans Cannabis Collective Foundation. It aims to educate vets about the drug he pointedly calls by the scientific name cannabis.

DiPasquale pushed to extend New York's nearly two-year-old medical marijuana program to include post-traumatic stress. He'd qualified because of other conditions but felt the drug ease his anxiety, sleeplessness and other PTSD symptoms and spur him to focus on wellness.

"Do I still have PTSD? Absolutely," says DiPasquale, 42. But "I'm back to my old self. I love people again."

In a sign of how much the issue has taken hold among veterans, the 2.2-million-member American Legion began pressing the federal government this summer to let Department of Veterans Affairs doctors recommend medical marijuana where it's legal . The Legion started advocating last year for easing federal constraints on medical pot research , a departure into drug policy for the nearly century-old organization.

"People ask, 'Aren't you the law-and-order group?' Why, yes, we are," Executive Director Verna Jones said at a Legion-arranged news conference early this month at the U.S. Capitol. But "when veterans come to us and say a particular treatment is working for them, we owe it to them to listen and to do scientific research required."

Even Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. David Shulkin recently said "there may be some evidence that this (medical marijuana) is beginning to be helpful," while noting that his agency is barred from helping patients get the illegal drug. (A few prescription drugs containing a synthetic version of a key chemical in marijuana do have federal approval to treat chemotherapy-related nausea.)

Medical marijuana first became legal in 1996 in California for a wide range of conditions; New Mexico in 2009 became the first state specifically to include PTSD patients. States have signed on in growing numbers particularly since 2014.

"It's quite a sea change," says Michael Krawitz, a disabled Air Force veteran who now runs Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access, an Elliston, Virginia-based group that's pursued the issue in many states.

Still, there remain questions and qualms—some from veterans—about advocating for medical marijuana as a treatment for PTSD.

It was stripped out of legislation that added six other diseases and syndromes to Georgia's law that allows certain medical cannabis oils. The chairman of the New York Senate veterans' affairs committee voted against adding PTSD to the state's program, suggesting the drug might just mask their symptoms.

"The sooner we allow them to live and experience the kind of emotions we do, in an abstinence-based paradigm, the sooner that they are returning home," said Sen. Thomas Croci, a Republican, former Navy intelligence officer and current reservist who served in Afghanistan.

Nation

Women get chance to 'one-up' the men in mixed infantry units

FORT BENNING, Georgia (AP)—The young Army infantry recruits lined up in full combat gear, guns at the ready. At the signal, a soldier in front kicked in the door and they burst into the room, swiveling to check around the walls for threats.

"You're dead!" one would-be enemy yelled out from a dark corner, the voice slightly higher than the others echoing through the building.

It was 18-year-old Kirsten, training to become one of the Army's first women serving as infantry soldiers.

"I want to be one of the females to prove to everybody else that just because you're a female, doesn't mean you can't do the same things as a male," she said, describing her brother—an infantry soldier—as motivation. "I also wanted to one-up him."

Kirsten is among more than 80 women who have gone to recruit training at Fort Benning, Georgia, since a ban on them serving in combat jobs was lifted. Twenty-two have graduated. More than 30 were still in training late last month, working toward graduation. The recruits' last names are being withheld by The Associated Press because some women have faced bullying on social media.

Somewhat smaller in stature than some of her male comrades, Kirsten gave up a Division I soccer scholarship to become an infantry soldier. In body armor, helmet and rucksack, she looks like just any other grunt.

A bunkmate, Gabriella, says the women push each other.

"Today during our ruck march we were, like, directly across from each other and I would constantly look over at her," Gabriella said of Kirsten. "We kinda just kept looking at each other and we're, like, all right, we're both doing it, we're passing these guys and stuff. We definitely have goals to be better than the guys."

The Army's introduction of women into the infantry has moved steadily but cautiously this year. As home to the previously all-male infantry and armor schools, Fort Benning had to make $35 million in renovations, including female dorm rooms, security cameras, and monitoring stations.

Laundry was an early challenge.

For years, the men washed clothes any time at night. Now, there are alarms and schedules. A "female" sign goes on the door when needed.

The women also balked at the early plan to put their living quarters on a separate floor from their squadmates. So base leaders now use one of four main sleeping bays to house the women. Cameras keep constant watch on the bay door and the stairs, and there's always a woman at the monitoring station.

"There's nothing they dislike more than to be separated," said Col. Kelly Kendrick, the brigade commander. He said the women just want to "fit in and do the same as everybody else."

This is the third class of recruits at Benning to include women. When they're not sleeping or washing clothes, they're completely integrated into their units.

As sun peeked over the horizon on an October morning, dozens of infantry recruits spread across the Fort Benning field going through their morning PT drills. In the dark mist, it was difficult to tell one from another as they powered through situps and pushups.

On that day, only two of five battalions training were integrated. There still aren't enough women to spread across all the units.

The shortcoming has created challenges. In the last class, only four women graduated, so filling rotations for guard duty all night was a problem. There weren't enough women to cover every hour, so others had to fill in.

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2017, photo, U.S. Army recruit Kirsten practices building clearing tactics with male recruits at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Bannon has House Republicans looking over shoulders for 2018

WASHINGTON (AP)—Steve Bannon is telling people he's not coming after mainstream Republicans in the House the way he's targeting senators with anti-establishment disrupters in primaries. Many in the House are looking over their shoulders all the same.

Bannon

"I can't read Mr. Bannon's mind," said North Carolina Rep. Robert Pittenger, who could well be on the list.

Back atop the right-wing media organization Breitbart News, President Donald Trump's ousted strategist is openly trying to topple Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and incumbents backing the Kentucky Republican. Bannon and his supporters say McConnell is the embodiment of an insufficiently conservative, unproductive party establishment.

The House is a different story, so far.

The 435-representative chamber is far larger than the 100-member Senate, so it would take huge sums for Bannon to reshape. It's also where Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has steered bills erasing much of the Obama health law and cutting taxes. Conservatives such as Bannon may be able to tilt the House rightward simply by running primary candidates in open seats, rather than battling normally well-funded Republican incumbents.

When Bannon met this month with Rep. Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, who heads the House GOP's campaign organization, he told Stivers their goals are aligned.

They're "largely on the same page to defend and expand" the party's majority, though there "might be a race here or there" where they clash, said Andrew Surabian, a Bannon associate and adviser to the Great America Alliance, a pro-Trump political organization.

"Steve's focus is not on incumbents in the House," Surabian said. "If you're not going out of your way to be a thorn in the side of the president, you probably don't have much to worry about."

Surabian said Bannon will headline a fundraiser next month for Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y. But some GOP incumbents aren't certain Bannon will leave them alone, and potential challengers are feeling buoyed.

"There are qualities about my candidacy he certainly would like," Mark Harris, a former pastor set for a rematch with Pittenger in a district east of Charlotte, said of Bannon. "We've got to start draining the swamp."

Harris lost in 2016 by fewer than 200 votes. He says he hasn't talked to Bannon "as of yet."

Trump chooses legislative agenda over GOP repulsion of Moore

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump said Sunday that electing a Democrat as Alabama's next senator "would be a disaster," making clear the success of his legislative agenda outweighs widespread GOP repulsion at the prospect of seating Republican Roy Moore, who is dogged by allegations of sexual misconduct.

The allegations, including claims that the 70-year-old Moore sexually assaulted or molested two teenage girls while he was in his 30s, have made the Dec. 12 election a referendum on "the character of the country" that transcends partisan politics, said GOP Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, as the party establishment cringed at Trump's latest intervention in the closely contested race.

"In my opinion, and in the opinion of many Republicans and conservatives in the Senate, it is time for us to turn the page because it is not about partisan politics. It's not about electing Republicans versus Democrats," Scott said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

"It's about the character of our country," he said.

Trump on Sunday once again plunged himself into the race, declaring in a pair of tweets—without mentioning Moore by name—that electing Moore's Democratic opponent, Doug Jones, would "be a disaster."

"The last thing we need in Alabama and the U.S. Senate is a Schumer/Pelosi puppet who is WEAK on Crime, WEAK on the Border, Bad for our Military and our great Vets, Bad for our 2nd Amendment, AND WANTS TO RAISES TAXES TO THE SKY," he wrote from Florida, referring to Democrats' congressional leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi.

Jones, speaking to reporters in Birmingham, shrugged off Trump's criticisms, saying he would not be a partisan voter. He said Alabamians are focused on issues such as the economy, education and health care.

"My record speaks for itself ... I think I am very strong on the issues that the people of Alabama care for," Jones said.

Jones, a former federal prosecutor, said he would be an independent voice in the U.S. Senate, similarly to his political mentor, the late U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin, who represented the state for nearly 20 years.

Jones' campaign issued a more biting statement saying, "Roy Moore was unfit for office even before nine Alabama women served as witnesses to all Alabamians of his disturbing conduct."

Two women have accused Moore of sexually assaulting or molesting them decades ago, when he was in his 30s and they were teenagers. Moore has denied the accusations. At least five others have said he pursued romantic relationships when they were teenagers and he was a prosecutor. Moore has said he never dated "underage" women.

Moore has had few public appearances since the accusations surfaced earlier this month, but his campaign quickly touted the president's tweets, adding "We will defeat him on Dec. 12," a reference to Jones.

Asia

Tens of thousands stranded as Bali volcano closes airport

AP
A tourist poses for a photo with Mount Agung volcano erupting as they visit a temple in Karangasem, Indonesia, Monday, Nov. 27, 2017.

KARANGASEM, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities raised the alert for a rumbling volcano on Bali to the highest level on Monday, stranding tens of thousands of travelers as ash clouds forced the closure of the tourist island's international airport.

Mount Agung has been hurling clouds of white and dark gray ash about 3,000 meters (9,800 feet) into the atmosphere since the weekend. Video released by the national disaster agency showed a mudflow of volcanic debris and water known as a lahar moving down the volcano's slopes. It said lahars could increase as it's rainy season and warned people to stay away from rivers.

Bali's airport was closed early Monday after tests indicated ash had reached its airspace and authorities raised the volcano's alert to the highest danger level.

Flight information boards showed rows of cancelations as tourists arrived at the busy airport expecting to catch flights home.

Airport spokesman Air Ahsanurrohim said 445 flights were canceled, stranding about 59,000 travelers. The closure is in effect until Tuesday morning though officials said the situation will be reviewed every six hours.

Bali is Indonesia's top tourist destination, with its gentle Hindu culture, surf beaches and lush green interior attracting about 5 million visitors a year.

Some flights to and from Bali were canceled on Saturday and Sunday but most had continued to operate normally as the towering ash clouds were moving east toward the neighboring island of Lombok.

"We now have to find a hotel and spend more of our money that they're not going to cover us for when we get home unfortunately," said Canadian tourist Brandon Olsen who was stranded at Bali's airport with his girlfriend.

Geological agency head, Kasbani, who goes by one name, said the alert level was raised because the volcano has shifted from steam-based eruptions to magmatic eruptions. However he said he's still not expecting a major eruption.

"We don't expect a big eruption but we have to stay alert and anticipate," he said on Indonesian TV.

The volcano's last major eruption in 1963 killed about 1,100 people.

The exclusion zone around the crater was widened to 10 kilometers (6 miles). Previously it ranged between 6 and 7.5 kilometers.

Ash has settled on villages and resorts around the volcano and soldiers and police distributed masks on the weekend.

In Karangasem district that surrounds the volcano, tourists stopped to watch the towering plumes of ash as children made their made to school.

Indonesia sits on the "Pacific Ring of Fire" and has more than 120 active volcanoes.

Mount Agung's alert status was raised to the highest level in September following a dramatic increase in tremors from the volcano, which doubled the exclusion zone around the crater and prompted more than 140,000 people to leave the area. The alert was lowered on Oct. 29 after a decrease in activity but about 25,000 people remained in evacuation centers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Explosion in Chinese port city kills 2, injures 30

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion in a port city south of Shanghai on Sunday killed two people and injured at least 30 others, knocked down buildings and left streets littered with damaged cars and debris, the government and news reports said. The early morning explosion struck a riverfront neighborhood in Ningbo, one of China's busiest ports, the official Xinhua News Agency and other outlets reported. Firefighters traced the blast to a hole in the ground where a toilet had been but the cause still was under investigation, state television said on its website. It gave no indication whether the explosion site was inside a building. Two people were killed and two more seriously injured, the district office announced on its social media account. It gave no details. At least 30 others were taken to hospitals, according to Huanqiu.com, a website operated by the Global Times newspaper.

Police: Bomb kills 4, wounds 19 in southwest Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated his explosives vest in the southwestern city of Quetta, killing at least four people and wounding 19 others, police said Saturday. Senior officer Abdur Razzaq Cheema said the suicide attack took place near a bus terminal in the city's outskirts. The target was the vehicle of an army colonel but the officer was not in the vehicle at the time of attack, he said. Cheema said most of the victims were civilians, including a child, while four security men were also wounded. Explosive experts concluded that some 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of explosives with steel balls were used in the suicide vest, Cheema said.

Doctor: Kim Jong Nam's underwear soiled, pupils contracted

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian doctor has testified in the trial of two women accused of murdering the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader that the victim's pupils contracted and his underwear was soiled with feces, both signs of poisoning. Siti Aisyah of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam, the only suspects in custody, pleaded not guilty at the start of their trial on Oct. 2. They were accused of smearing the banned VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face at a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, killing him within two hours. Nurliza Abdullah, a government doctor who conducted the autopsy on Kim's body, told the court Monday that the pupil constriction and the large excrement found in Kim's underwear both pointed to poisoning.

Pakistan Islamists rally on after deadly clashes with police

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani security forces refrained Sunday from cracking down again on an Islamist sit-in, now in its third week, after violence the previous day killed six people and wounded scores. The Islamists protesters rallied near Islamabad in support of a religious party demanding the resignation of the country's law minister over an omitted reference to Islam's Prophet Muhammad in a parliamentary bill, as solidarity protests spread across the country.

Encouraged by the countrywide protests in their support, a Tehreek-i-Labaik Ya Rasool Allah party leader called for a countrywide general strike on Monday against what he called "atrocities" committed by police on Saturday.

Over 3,000 protesters gathered Sunday at the Faizabad intersection, the sit-in's epicenter, which links the capital Islamabad with the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Some, angry over the police's show of force the previous day, torched a car, three motorcycles and a guard post erected near the rally site Sunday. No casualties were reported.

Pakistani riot police and paramilitary troops were deployed nearby—apparently in preparation for another crackdown after security forces failed to disperse the demonstrators on Saturday. As the day wore on, however, it became apparent they would refrain from any further action to clear the sit-in.

The law minister targeted by the group, Zahid Hamid, has apologized for the omission in the parliamentary bill—a phrase saying that Muhammad is the last prophet in Islam—and said it was a clerical error that was later corrected. But Tehreek-i-Labaik Ya Rasool Allah—a coalition of Barlevi groups that follow the Sunni Hanafi tradition—little-known before the sit-in, is adamant that Hamid resign.

"This sit-in and protests all over the country are not going to end unless our talks proved successful and our demands are met," said Pir Mohammad Afzal Qadri, the leader of Aalmi Tanzeem Ahl el-Sunnat, one of the Barlevi groups of the religious party.

Qadri said the party will fully participate in the 2018 general elections. "We will gain political strength to impose the system of Prophet Muhammad in the country," he said. Qadri appealed to traders to close their business on Monday to protest against the police's tactics. Fearing trouble, several state and private education institutions across the country announced that they would close and postpone exams on Monday.

On Saturday, security forces failed to disperse the protesters when riot police moved in with tear gas and batons. Hospital officials said nearly 200 people were hurt, most of them policemen. They confirmed six people were killed in clashes with police at the Islamabad rally. Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the deaths were not because of excessive police force but were the result of a mob attacking the residence of former the interior minister's home and clashing with guards there.

The government had asked the army for help on Saturday but the military questioned the need for army troops, saying enough police and paramilitary troops were available.

Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa met on Sunday with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to discuss the situation. It appeared after the meeting that the government will attempt another round of negotiations with the protesters at the Islamabad sit-in. The government has since removed police from the site and assigned paramilitary rangers in their place.

World

Pope's trip to Myanmar, Bangladesh boiling down to 1 word

AP

Pope Francis waves to journalists as he boards the plane for his six-day trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh, at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci international airport in Fiumicino, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017.

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis' aim in visiting Myanmar and Bangladesh is to encourage their tiny Catholic communities and bring a message of friendship and peace to some of Asia's most peripheral and poor. The big question looming is whether he'll utter the word "Rohingya" while he's there.

The "will he or won't he?" issue has dominated debate before Francis' trip, which begins Monday when his Alitalia charter flight lands in Yangon and ends with a youth rally in Dhaka on Dec. 2.

In between, Francis will meet separately with Myanmar's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, its powerful military chief and Buddhist monks. He'll greet a delegation of Rohingya Muslims and meet with Bangladesh's political and religious leadership in Dhaka. Masses for the Catholic faithful and meetings with the local church hierarchy round out the itinerary in each country.

Myanmar's local Catholic Church has publicly urged Francis to avoid using the term, which is shunned by many locally because the ethnic group is not a recognized minority in the country. Rohingya in recent months have been subject to what the United Nations says is a campaign of "textbook ethnic cleansing" by the military in poverty-wracked Rakhine state.

Francis, though, has already prayed for "our Rohingya brothers and sisters," and any decision to avoid the term could be viewed as a capitulation to Myanmar's military and a stain on his legacy of standing up for the most oppressed and marginalized of society, no matter how impolitic.

"Being a religious leader—Catholic leader—means that he is well-regarded, but of course there is this worry if he says something, people might say, 'OK, he just came to meddle,'" said Burmese analyst Khin Zaw Win, a former political prisoner. "So, I think a lot of diplomacy is needed, in addition to the public relations."

The trip was planned before the latest spasm of violence erupted in August, when Rohingya militants attacked security positions in Rakhine. Myanmar security forces responded with a scorched-earth campaign that forced more than 620,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, where they are living in squalid refugee camps.

The signals from the Vatican going into the trip were mixed: The Vatican spokesman used the term "Rohingya" in a pre-trip briefing and said "It's not a prohibited word" as far as the Vatican was concerned. But the Holy See's top diplomat, Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, avoided it in an interview with Vatican media on the eve of the trip.

The debate isn't just semantic: Myanmar's government and most of the Buddhist majority consider them Bengali migrants from Bangladesh living illegally in the country, though Rohingya have lived there for generations.

"It's going to be a tricky situation (if he uses the word), I think because most of the people can't accept it," said farmer Win Myaing.

Seaman Kyaw Thu Maung said the issue is difficult because the term "Rohingya" carries so much political weight for all of Myanmar's people.

"But my feeling is that if the pope is going to talk about the Rakhine issue, the people aren't going to like the pope anymore," he said.

Mugabe was relieved after quitting, Zimbabwean mediator says

CHISHAWASHA, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe knew it was "the end of the road" days before he quit, and appeared relieved when he signed his resignation letter after 37 years in power, a Catholic priest who mediated talks leading to his ouster said Sunday.

Fidelis Mukonori, who has known Mugabe for decades, said in an interview with The Associated Press that Mugabe, under immense pressure in his final days as president, wanted a gradual and "smooth" transition of power to Emmerson Mnangagwa, the vice president he had recently fired and who is now Zimbabwe's new leader.

Mugabe had to resort to "Plan B"—an immediate resignation—after Mnangagwa did not return from exile in South Africa at Mugabe's request, according to Mukonori.

The interview at the Chishawasha mission church east of Harare, the capital, revealed some of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering at the frantic end of Mugabe's rule, which began with promise after the end of white minority rule in 1980 and unraveled under pressure from virtually all sectors of a society worn down by economic decline, government dysfunction and restrictions on basic freedoms.

Events moved quickly after the military deployed troops in Harare on Nov. 14. The 93-year-old leader resigned a week later, and Mnangagwa was inaugurated Friday in a joyous ceremony attended by tens of thousands of people yearning for change.

While Mugabe had realized several days before his resignation that he couldn't stay on as president, he clung to the idea that he could remain in his post at least until a ruling party congress next month to ensure a "smooth handover," Mukonori said.

In a televised address on Nov. 19, Mugabe shocked many Zimbabweans who had expected him to announce his resignation by instead saying that he would preside over that congress, even though the ruling ZANU-PF party had fired him as party leader just hours before.

"I sympathize with the people in the street. They didn't know what was happening," Mukonori said. "The man had already realized that this is the end of the road."

Mugabe was unable to control the terms of his exit after a lifetime of exercising the deft political skills and outright ruthlessness that kept him in power for so long. He had lost his grip on the ruling party, where factional feuding reached a boiling point with the dismissal of Mnangagwa and the open ambitions of Mugabe's wife, Grace, to take over from her husband in a dynastic succession that many Zimbabweans found abhorrent.

The military said it intervened to target "criminals" around Mugabe, and Mukonori focused on talks with generals aimed at resolving the political crisis, shuttling among the president's private residence, the presidential office at State House and military barracks.

Mnangagwa, who has close ties to the military and had fled Zimbabwe, was the "one figure missing" in the talks, Mukonori said. Hours before Mugabe's Nov. 19 speech, the priest said, Mugabe spoke to Mnangagwa for 10 minutes by telephone and implored his former deputy to return, saying: "'Emmerson, come back now, now, now. Let's deal with this issue.'"

Mugabe "had to change his mind because Emmerson did not turn up," said Mukonori, who worked with several other mediators in the government.

The next day, Mnangagwa said publicly that he could not return to Zimbabwe because he feared for his life and urged Mugabe to resign immediately. On Tuesday, Zimbabwe's parliament began impeachment proceedings against Mugabe, who called Jacob Mudenda, the parliamentary speaker, to say he wanted to resign.

The president worried, according to Mukonori, that "'they think I'm now resigning in order to stop the meeting, as if I have something to hide.'"

When Mugabe finally signed his resignation letter, he had an expression of relief, as though to say, "'It's done,'" the priest said.

Grace Mugabe, 52, had a peripheral role in the talks leading to her husband's resignation, only participating "when it was necessary for her to come, when she was called," Mukonori said. On one occasion, she told an inquiring Mugabe that she was not involved in a statement critical of the military that has landed two leaders of the ruling party's youth league in jail.

Egyptian village where mosque was attacked had been warned

CAIRO (AP)—Elders of a village in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula where militants killed 305 people in a mosque had been warned by Islamic State operatives to stop collaborating with security forces and to suspend rituals associated with Islam's mystical Sufi movement, security officials and residents said Sunday.

The latest warning came as recently as a week ago, telling villagers in Al-Rawdah not to hold Sufi rituals on Nov. 29-30 to commemorate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, according to residents and the officials who work for security and military intelligence agencies operating in Sinai.

Local operatives of the Islamic State affiliate in Sinai consider Sufis to be heretics who should be killed. Ahmed Saqr, an expert on the Sinai insurgency, said militants had publicly identified the mosque, which also serves as a Sufi center, as a target months ago.

He wrote Saturday in a Facebook post that the selection of the Al-Rawdah mosque as a target "raises questions about those who read, analyze and prepare in our security agencies," and whether anything could have been done to prevent the "untold horrors."

Mohammed Ibrahim, a university student from the village, said militants had warned residents a few days before Friday's attack not to collaborate with security forces. The warning, he told The Associated Press by telephone Sunday from the nearby town of Bir al-Abd, followed the detention three weeks ago by villagers of three suspected militants who were handed over to security forces.

The militants also distributed leaflets several times ordering villagers not to cooperate with security forces and to abandon Sufism, he said.

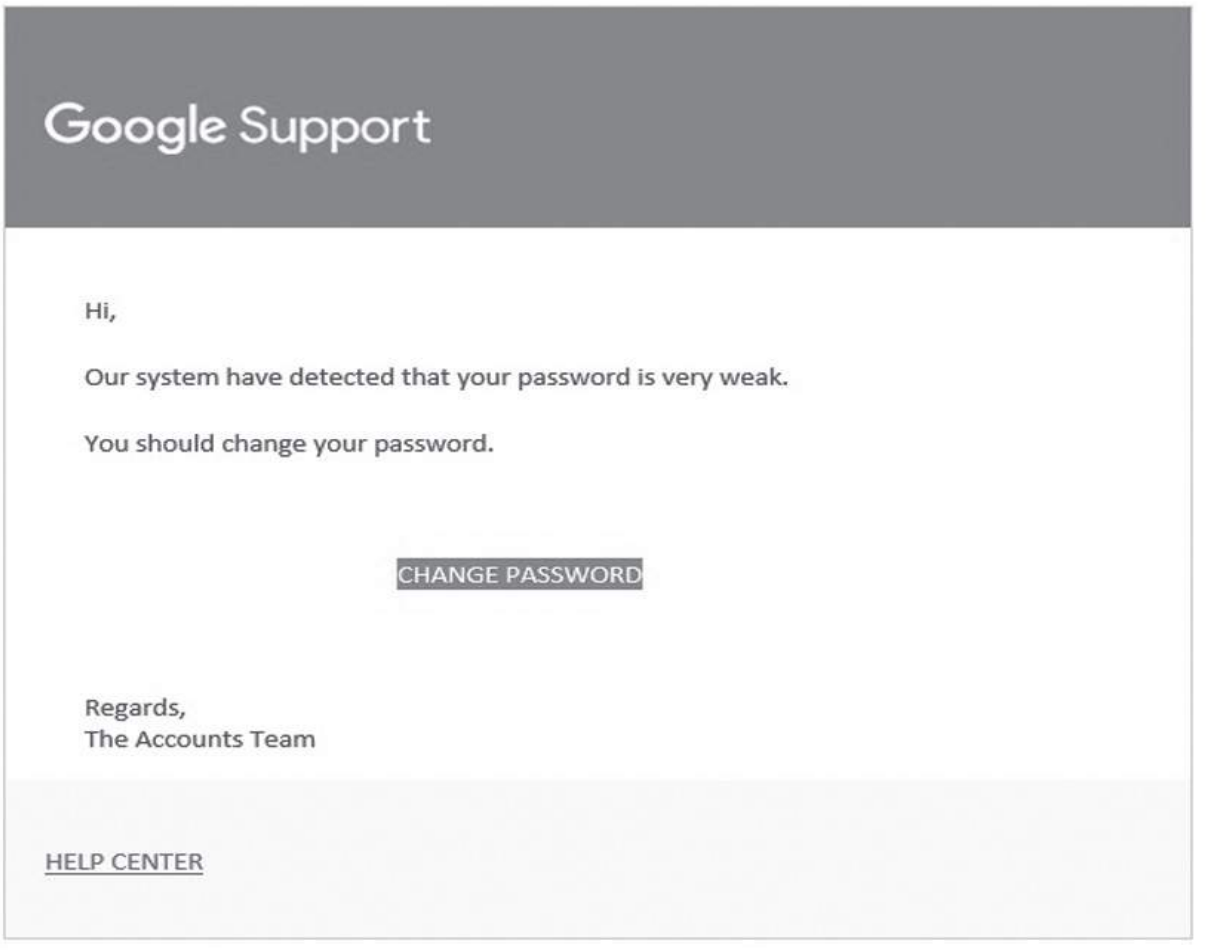
Another Al-Rawdah resident, Mohammed Darwish, 30, said militants stormed the home of village tribal leader Sheikh Hussein al-Jerirr twice this year.

"They threatened him not to hold Sufi gatherings, and last week, they came on motorbikes and asked residents not to participate in Sufi rituals," Darwish said.

Focus

FBI gave heads-up to fraction of Russian hackers' US targets

By RAPHAEL SATTER, JEFF DONN and DESMOND BUTLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
This image shows a portion of a phishing email sent to a Washington area-based military analyst on Nov. 9, 2017. Scores of U.S. diplomatic, military and government figures were not told about attempts to hack into their emails even though the FBI knew they were in the Kremlin's crosshairs, The Associated Press has learned.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI failed to notify scores of U.S. officials that Russian hackers were trying to break into their personal Gmail accounts despite having evidence for at least a year that the targets were in the Kremlin's crosshairs, The Associated Press has found.

Nearly 80 interviews with Americans targeted by Fancy Bear, a Russian government-aligned cyberespionage group, turned up only two cases in which the FBI had provided a heads-up. Even senior policymakers discovered they were targets only when the AP told them, a situation some described as bizarre and dispiriting.

"It's utterly confounding," said Philip Reiner, a former senior director at the National Security Council, who was notified by the AP that he was targeted in 2015. "You've got to tell your people. You've got to protect your people."

The FBI declined to discuss its investigation into Fancy Bear's spying campaign, but did provide a statement that said in part: "The FBI routinely notifies individuals and organizations of potential threat information."

Three people familiar with the matter—including a current and a former government official—said the FBI has known for more than a year the details of Fancy Bear's attempts to break into Gmail inboxes. A senior FBI official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the hacking operation because of its sensitivity, declined to comment on when it received the target list, but said that the bureau was overwhelmed by the sheer number of attempted hacks.

"It's a matter of triaging to the best of our ability the volume of the targets who are out there," he said.

The AP did its own triage, dedicating two months and a small team of reporters to go through a hit list of Fancy Bear targets provided by the cybersecurity firm Secureworks.

Previous AP investigations based on the list have shown how Fancy Bear worked in close alignment with the Kremlin's interests to steal tens of thousands of emails from the Democratic Party . The hacking campaign disrupted the 2016 U.S. election and cast a shadow over the presidency of Donald Trump, whom U.S. intelligence agencies say the hackers were trying to help . The Russian government has denied interfering in the American election.

The Secureworks list comprises 19,000 lines of targeting data . Going through it, the AP identified more than 500 U.S.-based people or groups and reached out to more than 190 of them, interviewing nearly 80 about their experiences.

Many were long-retired, but about one-quarter were still in government or held security clearances at the time they were targeted. Only two told the AP they learned of the hacking attempts on their personal Gmail accounts from the FBI. A few more were contacted by the FBI after their emails were published in the torrent of leaks that coursed through last year's electoral contest. But to this day, some leak victims have not heard from the bureau at all.

Charles Sowell, who previously worked as a senior administrator in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and was targeted by Fancy Bear two years ago, said there was no reason the FBI couldn't do the same work the AP did.

"It's absolutely not OK for them to use an excuse that there's too much data," Sowell said. "Would that hold water if there were a serial killer investigation, and people were calling in tips left and right, and they were holding up their hands and saying, 'It's too much'? That's ridiculous."

'IT'S CURIOUS'

The AP found few traces of the bureau's inquiry as it launched its own investigation two months ago.

In October, two AP journalists visited THCServers.com , a brightly lit, family-run internet company on the former grounds of a communist-era chicken farm outside the Romanian city of Craiova. That's where someone registered DCLeaks.com, the first of three websites to publish caches of emails belonging to Democrats and other U.S. officials in mid-2016.

DCLeaks was clearly linked to Fancy Bear. Previous AP reporting found that all but one of the site's victims had been targeted by the hacking group before their emails were dumped online.

Yet THC founder Catalin Florica said he was never approached by law enforcement.

"It's curious," Florica said. "You are the first ones that contact us."

THC merely registered the site, a simple process that typically takes only a few minutes. But the reaction was similar at the Kuala Lumpur offices of the Malaysian web company Shinjiru Technology , which hosted DCLeaks' stolen files for the duration of the electoral campaign.

The company's chief executive, Terence Choong, said he had never heard of DCLeaks until the AP contacted him.

"What is the issue with it?" he asked.

Questions over the FBI's handling of Fancy Bear's broad hacking sweep date to March 2016, when agents arrived unannounced at Hillary Clinton's headquarters in Brooklyn to warn her campaign about a surge of rogue, password-stealing emails.

The agents offered little more than generic security tips the campaign had already put into practice and refused to say who they thought was behind the attempted intrusions, according to a person who was there and spoke on condition of anonymity because the conversation was meant to be confidential.

Questions emerged again after it was revealed that the FBI never took custody of the Democratic National Committee's computer server after it was penetrated by Fancy Bear in April 2016. Former FBI Director James Comey testified this year that the FBI worked off a copy of the server, which he described as an "appropriate substitute."

'MAKES ME SAD'

Retired Maj. James Phillips was one of the first people to have the contents of his inbox published by DCLeaks when the website made its June 2016 debut.

But the Army veteran said he didn't realize his personal emails were "flapping in the breeze" until a journalist phoned him two months later.

"The fact that a reporter told me about DCLeaks kind of makes me sad," he said. "I wish it had been a government source."

Phillips' story would be repeated again and again as the AP spoke to officials from the National Defense University in Washington to the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado.

Among them: a former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, retired Lt. Gen. Patrick Hughes; a former head of Air Force Intelligence, retired Lt. Gen. David Deptula; a former defense undersecretary, Eric Edelman; and a former director of cybersecurity for the Air Force, retired Lt. Gen. Mark Schissler.

Retired Maj. Gen. Brian Keller, a former director of military support at the Geospatial Intelligence Agency, was not informed, even after DCLeaks posted his emails to the internet. In a telephone call with AP, Keller said he still wasn't clear on what had happened, who had hacked him or whether his data was still at risk.

"Should I be worried or alarmed or anything?" asked Keller, who left the spy satellite agency in 2010 and now works in private industry.

Not all the interviewees felt the FBI had a responsibility to alert them.

"Perhaps optimistically, I have to conclude that a risk analysis was done and I was not considered a high enough risk to justify making contact," said a former Air Force chief of staff, retired Gen. Norton Schwartz, who was targeted by Fancy Bear in 2015.

Others argued that the FBI may have wanted to avoid tipping the hackers off or that there were too many people to notify.

"The expectation that the government is going to protect everyone and go back to everyone is false," said Nicholas Eftimiades, a retired senior technical officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency who teaches homeland security at Pennsylvania State University in Harrisburg and was himself among the targets.

But the government is supposed to try, said Michael Daniel, who served as President Barack Obama's White House cybersecurity coordinator.

Daniel wouldn't comment directly on why so many Fancy Bear targets weren't warned in this case, but he said the issue of how and when to notify people "frankly still needs more work."

'CLOAK-AND-DAGGER'

In the absence of any official warning, some of those contacted by AP brushed off the idea that they were taken in by a foreign power's intelligence service.

"I don't open anything I don't recognize," said Joseph Barnard, who headed the personnel recovery branch of the Air Force's Air Combat Command.

That may well be true of Barnard; Secureworks' data suggests he never clicked the malicious link sent to him in June 2015. But it isn't true of everyone.

An AP analysis of the data suggests that out of 312 U.S. military and government figures targeted by Fancy Bear, 131 clicked the links sent to them. That could mean that as many as 2 in 5 came perilously close to handing over their passwords.

It's not clear how many gave up their credentials in the end or what the hackers may have acquired.

Some of those accounts hold emails that go back years, when even many of the retired officials still occupied sensitive posts.

Overwhelmingly, interviewees told AP they kept classified material out of their Gmail inboxes, but intelligence experts said Russian spies could use personal correspondence as a springboard for further hacking, recruitment or even blackmail.

"You start to have information you might be able to leverage against that person," said Sina Beaghley, a researcher at the RAND Corp. who served on the NSC until 2014.

In the few cases where the FBI did warn targets, they were sometimes left little wiser about what was going on or what to do.

Rob "Butch" Bracknell, a 20-year military veteran who works as a NATO lawyer in Norfolk, Virginia, said an FBI agent visited him about a year ago to examine his emails and warn him that a "foreign actor" was trying to

See FBI on Page 18

Overdrive

2018 Subaru Impreza is new star on compact stage

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Subaru is the indie band you loved when nobody knew them, and the 4-star 2018 Impreza 2.0i Sport compact sedan just might be the crossover hit that takes them big time, landing them in movie soundtracks, commercials and three driveways on your block.

Do you still love them? Or are you a fair-weather fan who valued their obscurity as much as the music they made?

Subaru has been the in-crowd's secret for years. Now it also makes several of the world's best cars. It's hard to keep that quiet. Get used to seeing more Subarus.

This is not without risk. Other brands have built a devoted audience around a unique personality, only to lose sight of what made them special as they chased higher sales.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

■ 2017 Subaru Impreza 2.0i Sport sedan

■ All-wheel-drive five-passenger compact sedan

■ Price as tested: $24,145 (excluding destination charge)

■ Rating: 4 out of 4 stars

■ Reasons to buy: Value; all-wheel-drive; controls

■ Shortcomings: Fuel economy; power

HOW MUCH?

The Impreza compact sedan and hatchback were all-new for the 2017 model year. The 2018 model year brought a few safety features and a price increase that reflects the car's status as a hit: Impreza sales are up 48.3 percent versus a year ago.

All-wheel-drive is standard on all models, a feature that makes the Impreza unique among mass-market compacts. Competition includes the Chevy Cruze, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra, Kia Forte, Mazda 3, Nissan Sentra, Toyota Corolla and Volkswagen Jetta.

All Imprezas have a 2.0L four-cylinder horizontally opposed "boxer" engine that produces 152 hp and 147 lb-ft of torque.

Prices start at $18,495 for a four-door sedan with a five-speed manual transmission. Hatchbacks start at $18,995. Subaru's continuously variable automatic transmission adds $1,000.

The most expensive Impreza in the 2018 model line is a $24,695 Limited hatchback with the CVT.

I tested a nicely equipped mid-level 2017 Impreza Sport sedan that stickered at $24,145. My car had a large and useful touch screen; voice recognition; Apple CarPlay; Bluetooth compatibility; Android Auto; backup camera; 18-inch alloy wheels; high-definition radio; a four-month satellite radio trial; power locks, mirrors and windows; power sunroof; Harman Kardon audio; blind spot and cross-traffic alerts.

A 2018 Impreza Sport equipped like my test car costs $25,145. All prices exclude destination charges.

That's still a bargain. None of the other mass-market compacts offer AWD, and the Impreza's other features compare well.

COMPETITIVE BASE PRICES (EXCLUDING DESTINATION CHARGES)

■ (Automatic transmission models)

■ 2018 Subaru Impreza 2.0i Sport sedan w/CVT: $22,895

■ Chevrolet Cruze Premier: $23,475

■ Ford Focus Titanium sedan: $24,175

■ Honda Civic EX-L: $23,900

■ Hyundai Elantra Limited: $22,100

■ Kia Forte EX: $21,600

■ Mazda 3 Grand Touring: $24,195

■ Nissan Sentra SL: $23,440

■ Toyota Corolla XSE: $22,730

■ VW Jetta 1.4T SE: $22,245

OUTSTANDING FEATURES

The Impreza is roomy and comfortable. The passenger compartment is larger than any of the competitors. The front seat has plenty of storage for cups, smartphones and the like. The rear seat is accommodating. The trunk is smallest in the group, but still practical.

The controls include a large touch screen for smartphone and other functions. There are also conventional buttons and dials for frequently used features such as volume, tuning, fan and temperature. The controls are simple and easy to use.

AN ALL-NEW ARCHITECTURE

The Impreza uses a new platform Subaru developed. The structure is stiff and light. My AWD Impreza weighed just 106 pounds more than a front-drive VW Jetta SE.

That allows the boxer engine and CVT to deliver satisfying performance despite only average power for the segment. The steering is responsive. The suspension manages bumps and keeps the car stable in quick maneuvers.

Subaru offers a wide range of safety features in an option package called EyeSight. You can equip an Impreza with adaptive cruise control, automatic braking, automatic high beam lights and lane-keeping assist, in addition to the features on my car. That package of features costs $2,150 on an Impreza Sport.

The Impreza's styling is simple and nearly unadorned. Large windows provide good visibility. A rectangular grille houses a Subaru badge and silver wings.

The sides have mild fender flares and subtle character lines running along the beltline and just above the door sills.

Expect flashier looks and more performance when Subaru adds a high-powered WRX sport model in 2019.

SPECIFICATIONS AS TESTED

■ Engine: 2.0L horizontally opposed four-cylinder boxer engine

■ Power: 152 hp @ 6,000 rpm; 145 lb-ft of torque @ 4,000 rpm

■ Transmission: Continuously variable automatic

■ Wheelbase: 105.1 inches

■ Length: 182.1 inches

■ Width: 70.0 inches

■ Height: 57.3 inches

■ Curb weight: 3,131 pounds

■ Where assembled: Lafayette, Ind.

THE DOWNSIDE

It's hard to find any real shortcomings in the Impreza. Fuel economy is in the middle of the pack, but that's still pretty good for an all-wheel-drive vehicle competing with front-wheel-drive cars. AWD adds weight and increases how the engine works even when the car doesn't need extra traction.

The EPA rates the CVT-equipped Impreza at 28 m.p.g. in the city, 38 on the highway and 32 in combined driving. The key combined figure trails the Civic and Cruze, but is actually better than the Mazda 3, Ford Focus and Toyota Corolla.

The other cars match the Impreza.

COMPETITIVE EPA FUEL ECONOMY RATINGS

(Automatic transmission models)

■ 2018 Subaru Impreza 2.0i Sport sedan w/CVT: 32 m.p.g. city/38 highway/32 combined. Regular gasoline.

■ Chevrolet Cruze Premier: 29/40/33. Regular gasoline.

■ Ford Focus Titanium sedan: 27/38/31. Regular gasoline.

■ Honda Civic EX-L: 32/42/36. Regular gasoline

■ Hyundai Elantra Limited: 28/37/32. Regular gasoline

■ Kia Forte EX: 29/38/32. Regular gasoline

■ Mazda 3 Grand Touring: 28/37/31. Regular gasoline

■ Nissan Sentra SL: 29/37/32. Regular gasoline

■ Toyota Corolla XSE: 28/35/31. Regular gasoline.

■ VW Jetta 1.4T SE: 28/38/32. Regular gasoline.

Source: www.fueleconomy.gov

THE VERDICT

The Impreza brings the goodies that made Subaru a cult favorite to the mass market, at affordable prices. It should raise the ante for every other brand that wants to sell a compact car.

There's a new star on stage.

The days of catching that cool indie band in tiny clubs may be over. You may have to share Subaru with stadium-size crowds

And if you're one of the early adopters who kind of hates the fact that everybody else has figured out how good the funky little brand you discovered is, get over yourself.

The Beatles and Eminem remained trailblazers long after they became best sellers. There's no reason Subaru can't, too.

KEY FEATURES ON VEHICLE TESTED

Standard equipment: Anti-lock brakes; stability control; front-seat side air bags; driver knee air bag; curtain air bags; backup camera; LED daytime running lights; 18-in alloy wheels; rear spoiler; turn signals built into side mirrors; power locks, mirrors, windows; air conditioning; 8.0-in. touch screen; HD radio; four months SiriusXM satellite radio; Bluetooth compatibility; Apple CarPlay; Android Auto; USB port; cruise control; automatic headlights; push button start; manually adjustable front seats; manual tilt and telescoping steering column; aluminum pedal covers; leather wrapped steering wheel and shifter; 60/40 split folding rear seat; heated front seats.

Options: Power sun roof; 432-watt eight-speaker Harman/Kardon audio; cross-traffic and blind-spot alert.

TNS

The 2018 Subaru Impreza Sport Sedan.

FBI

From Page 17

break into his account.

"He was real cloak-and-dagger about it," Bracknell said. "He came here to my work, wrote in his little notebook and away he went."

Left to fend for themselves, some targets have been improvising their cybersecurity.

Retired Gen. Roger A. Brady, who was responsible for American nuclear weapons in Europe as part of his past role as commander of the U.S. Air Force there, turned to Apple support this year when he noticed something suspicious on his computer. Hughes, a former DIA head, said he had his hard drive replaced by the "Geek Squad" at a Best Buy in Florida after his machine began behaving strangely. Keller, the former senior spy satellite official, said it was his son who told him his emails had been posted to the web after getting a Google alert in June 2016.

A former U.S. ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, who like many others was repeatedly targeted by Fancy Bear but has yet to receive any warning from the FBI, said the lackluster response risked something worse than last year's parade of leaks.

"Our government needs to be taking greater responsibility to defend its citizens in both the physical and cyber worlds, now, before a cyberattack produces an even more catastrophic outcome than we have already experienced," McFaul said.

Life & Style

Contestant from South Africa wins Miss Universe *crown*

Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters waves after she was announced as the new Miss Universe at the Miss Universe pageant Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Las Vegas.
AP

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, who represented South Africa, won the Miss Universe crown Sunday.

The 22-year-old, who recently earned a business management degree, was crowned at The AXIS theater at Planet Hollywood casino-resort on the Las Vegas Strip. The runner-up was Miss Colombia Laura Gonzalez, while the second runner-up was Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett.

Ninety-two women from around the world participated in the decades-old competition. This year's edition had the most contestants ever, including the first representatives in its history of Cambodia, Laos and Nepal.

Along with the title, Nel-Peters earned a yearlong salary, a luxury apartment in New York City for the duration of her reign and more prizes. She is the second woman from her home country to earn the crown.

Fans of the pageant submitted the questions that the final five contestants were asked during the competition.

When asked to name the most important issue women face in the workplace, Nel-Peters said the lack of equal pay.

"In some places, women get paid 75 percent of what men earn for doing the same job, working the same hours, and I do not believe that is right," she said. "I think we should have equal work for equal pay for women all over the world."

Nel-Peters is from the South African coastal community of Sedgefield in the Western Cape province. She helped develop a program to train women in self-defense in various situations after she was robbed at gunpoint a month after she was crowned as Miss South Africa.

Steve Harvey returned as the show's host despite botching the 2015 Miss Universe crowning. On Sunday, he poked fun at his mistake throughout the night. Three days after people in the U.S. celebrated Thanksgiving, Harvey told the audience he is "grateful for the Oscars," referring to the best-picture flub at this year's Academy Awards.

Grammy-Award winner Fergie performed her new song "A Little Work" while the contestants walked down the stage wearing evening gowns. This year's judges included YouTube star Lele Pons, former judge of "America's Next Top Model" Jay Manuel and Wendy Fitzwilliam, the 1998 Miss Universe winner from Trinidad and Tobago.

President Donald Trump offended Hispanics when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his bid for the White House in 2015. At the time, he co-owned The Miss Universe Organization with NBCUniversal, but the network and the Spanish-language broadcaster Univision quickly cut ties with him, refusing to air the show. Trump sued both networks, eventually settling and selling off the entire pageant to talent management company WME/IMG.

RUSSIAN DANCER challenges centuries of ballet tradition

MOSCOW (AP)—It's an uphill battle trying to promote contemporary dance in a country that prides itself on keeping its trademark ballets intact for a century.

But acclaimed dancer Diana Vishneva is no stranger to taking risks.

Throughout her career on both sides of the Atlantic, Vishneva, a principal dancer at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, did not just bask in the accolades for her immaculate performances of Russian ballet classics like Swan Lake or The Sleeping Beauty but also ventured into contemporary dance projects with seemingly little commercial appeal.

Her own efforts, originally with another Russian, Alexei Ratmansky, led her to collaborate with the best and brightest of contemporary dance including the venerated American choreographer John Neimeier, who created several productions just for Vishneva.

This month, the ballerina, who was a principal dancer at American Ballet Theater from 2005 until June when she retired from the company, brought to Russia her brainchild, the fifth festival of contemporary dance, titled "Context. Diana Vishneva."

The festival, which originally started as three days of performances starring Vishneva, has evolved into a week of shows, workshops and meet-the-artists sessions in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The companies that performed in Russia's two major cities are rarely seen in one place: from the cutting-edge Los Angeles-based BodyTraffic to the acclaimed Dutch National Ballet.

The festival opened with a show by several up-and-coming Russian choreographers. In one of them, a female dancer dressed in jeans was jogging on stage for several minutes while her partner was writhing on the floor as if struggling to get to his feet.

In Russia, where the Bolshoi and other powerhouses of music and dance pride themselves on keeping the ballet classics unchanged for a century, that might seem like a hard sell. But not for Vishneva, who takes pride in the fact that some of the young choreographers whose work was featured at the festival went on to build international careers.

"With every year, there's more interest in contemporary dance (in Russia), and I can feel it's true both for professionals and the audience," Vishneva told The Associated Press.

Paradoxically, smaller theaters in the Russian provinces are often more receptive to modern dance.

"In a way it's easier because that weight of tradition, history and classical heritage that major theaters like the Bolshoi and the Mariinsky have.. the regions are much more flexible now," Vishneva said. "They don't have such rigid boundaries."

The year 2017 has not been easy for contemporary art in Russia. Ultra-conservative activists threatened violence in response to the release of a movie about the last Russian czar's love affair; the premiere of the ballet "Nureyev" directed by the prominent director Kirill Serebrennikov was postponed at the last moment, reportedly because of its depiction of the protagonist's homosexuality, and several months later Serebrennikov found himself in the dock on fraud charges he vehemently denies.

The criminal case against arguably Russia's most prominent theater and film director shocked Russia's creative circles and sparked fears of the return of a Soviet-style censorship.

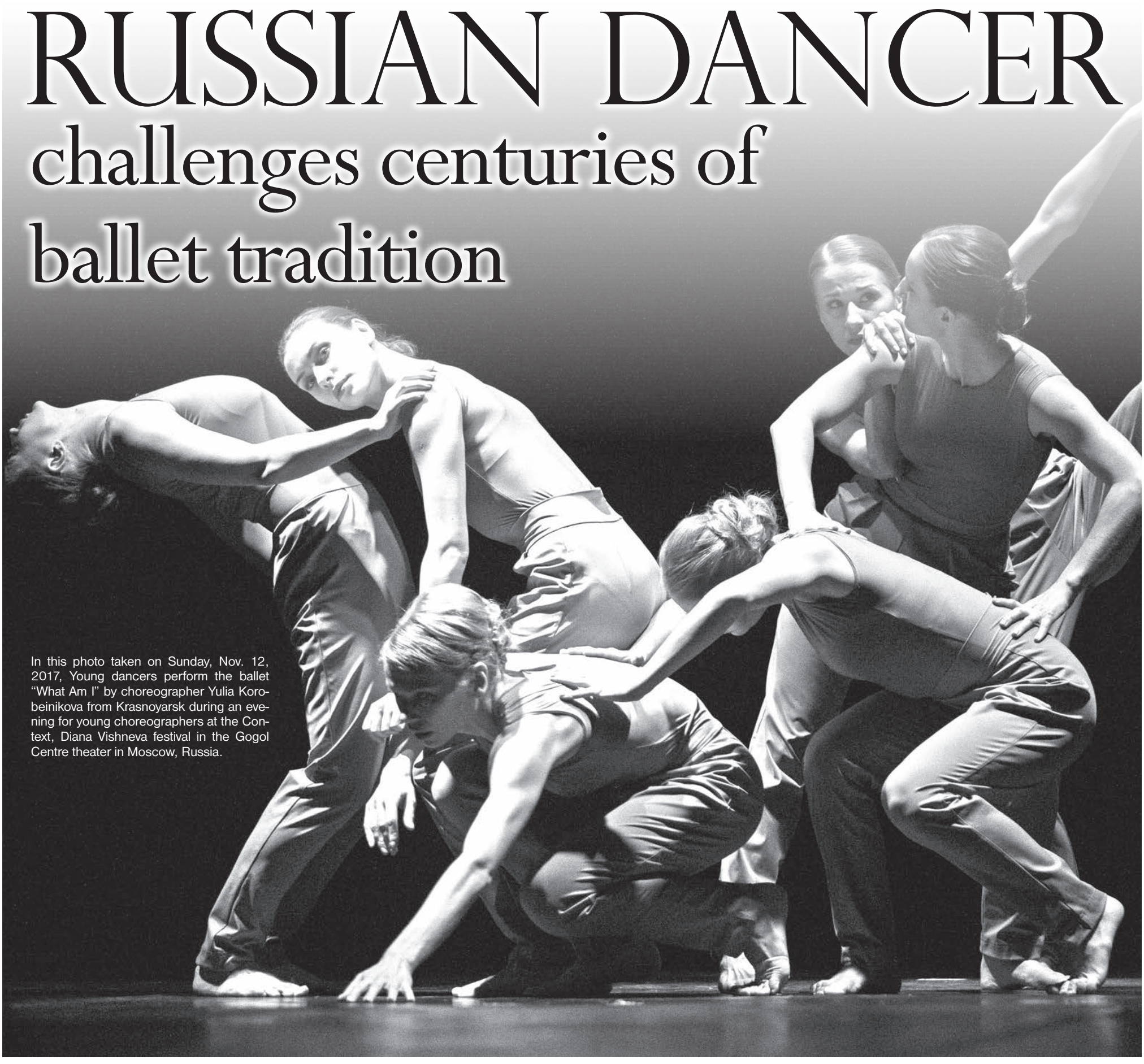
"Nureyev" is due to premiere next month while Serebrennikov remains under house arrest.

Serebrennikov's Gogol Center, famous for its productions that mock officialdom and conservatism, offered its stage to some of the events of Vishneva's festival.

Vishneva said she is "concerned and sad" about the case against Serebrennikov but waits to hear about further developments.

Vishneva's festival enjoyed the support of the Russian Culture ministry, a patronage that helped ward off activists who have ransacked art exhibitions or disrupted plays in Moscow in the past.

"You can find faults in classical art too," she said. "It's all because of people who are always on the look-out. for ways to publicize themselves."



In this photo taken on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, Young dancers perform the ballet "What Am I" by choreographer Yulia Korobeinikova from Krasnoyarsk during an evening for young choreographers at the Context, Diana Vishneva festival in the Gogol Centre theater in Moscow, Russia.

Pixar's 'Coco' feasts on 'Justice League' at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—Pixar's "Coco" sang its way to the fourth best Thanksgiving weekend ever with an estimated $71.2 million over the five-day weekend, a total that easily toppled Warner Bros.' "Justice League."

"Coco" rode strong reviews and an A-plus CinemaScore from audiences to the top spot at the domestic box office. According to studio estimates Sunday, it grossed $49 million from Friday to Sunday. Centered on the Mexican holiday Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), "Coco" has already set box office records in Mexico, where it has made $53.4 million in three weeks.

After a disappointing debut last weekend, the much-maligned DC Comics superhero team-up film "Justice League" slid to second with $40.7 million. In the five-day holiday frame, it earned about $60 million. "Justice League" is faring better overseas, where it has made more than $300 million.

DISNEY • PIXAR VIA AP

This image released by Disney-Pixar shows a scene from the animated film, "Coco."

The two top spots told a familiar tale: Quality is trumping mediocrity at the box office, where Rotten Tomato ratings bear considerable weight and where word-of-mouth spreads lightning quick. "Coco" is Pixar's sixth release to land an A-plus CinemaScore from audiences. The film's Rotten Tomatoes rating, 96 percent fresh, is more than double that of "Justice League" (41 percent).

"In a world where moviegoing and quality seem to be connected, having a brand that has as consistently as Pixar has delivered on very high expectations definitely makes our work a little easier," said Dave Hollis, distribution chief for the Walt Disney Co., which owns Pixar. "Consumers have really come to expect high quality. This is once again Pixar doing what they do best."

After some early blunders (Disney tried to trademark "Dia de Los Muertos," sparking a backlash), the studio strove to capture Mexican culture authentically in "Coco," enlisting cultural consultants for their feedback. The film, directed by Lee Unkrich and co-directed by Adrian Molina, is one of the largest U.S. productions ever to feature a largely all-Latino cast.

1. **"Coco,"** $49 million ($30.7 million international).
2. **"Justice League,"** $40.7 million ($72.2 million international).
3. **"Wonder,"** $22.3 million.
4. **"Thor: Ragnarok,"** $16.8 million.
5. **"Daddy's Home 2,"** $13.3 million.
6. **"Murder on the Orient Express,"** $13 million.
7. **"The Star,"** $6.9 million.
8. **"Bad Moms Christmas,"** $5 million.
9. **"Roman J. Israel, Esq."** $4.5 million.
10. **"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,"** $4.4 million.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

WWII museum holds extensive Winston Churchill collection

NATICK, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts museum is touting its collection of Winston Churchill artifacts following the release of a major new biopic about the famous British prime minister. The International Museum of World War II in Natick says it holds the most comprehensive collection of original Churchill letters, manuscript and artifacts outside of the Churchill Archives in England. Among the artifacts are Churchill's cigar box, his favored suit worn through World War II and a typewritten manuscript of his "we shall never surrender" speech that has his handwritten notes. The museum's promotion of the collection coincides with Wednesday's opening of the film "The Darkest Hour." The film stars Gary Oldman and chronicles Churchill during the early days of the war.

Johnny Cash boyhood home considered for historic nomination

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The boyhood home of country music icon Johnny Cash is being considered as a nominee for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's review board is to meet Wednesday to consider 14 state properties for nomination to the list of the nation's historic places, including the Cash home that was built in 1934 in Dyess in northeastern Arkansas, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Memphis, Tennessee. The house and 40 acres (16 hectares) were provided to the Cash family as part of a federal government economic recovery program during the Great Depression. Preservation Program spokesman Mark Christ told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that a final decision on whether the property is included on the list will be made by the National Park Service.

Taiwanese crime thriller claims 3 top Golden Horse awards

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese crime thriller "The Bold, The Corrupt, The Beautiful" claimed three top Golden Horse movie awards, including best feature film. Veteran Hong Kong actress Kara Wei said on stage that her best actress win for the film fulfilled a wish. Her co-star, 14-year-old Vicky Chen, became the youngest best supporting actress winner for her role in the film by Taiwanese director Yang Yache. China's Vivian Qu won the best director award for the dark drama "Angels Wear White," which addressed the theme of child sexual assault. "I am really happy, because this movie talks about social problems. And I think nothing is more important than (that) this movie reaches its audiences," she said in accepting the award at Saturday's ceremony. China's Tu Men credited luck for being named best leading actor for his role as a bankrupt businessman in the film "Old Beast."

Young couple seem to click better when they're apart

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for two years. When I'm with him, I often find him annoying and think we have nothing in common. But when we are apart, I miss him a lot -- especially when one of us travels for work.

When we're apart and talk on the phone, we have amazing conversations and discuss a future together. But when we're together, we don't talk as much, and he never mentions a future together.

I'm confused. Is this normal for relationships? I don't want to stay in a relationship that isn't going anywhere, and it has been like this since pretty early on. How can I know if I should invest more of my time or if I should end it and move on?

PERPLEXED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: If neither of you is particularly talkative and there are a lot of distractions when you are together, then it's normal. When you are apart, it's possible that you miss —and idealize—each other, which is why those conversations about a future happen. The way to determine whether you should invest more time in this relationship would be to ASK him, and just as plainly as you addressed that question to me.

DEAR ABBY: Could you please print this on behalf of delivery people everywhere? Folks: Please make sure your address is visible from the street.

I can't tell you how many times I have had to drive up and down a street trying to figure out which house I'm supposed to deliver to. Sometimes, I can see the number on the curb. But many times, it's impossible to spot—and I deliver during the day. I can only begin to imagine how hard it is for couriers who deliver at night. So do us a favor. Make sure your house number is visible from the street.

WENDY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WENDY: I'm glad you wrote. People in your profession are not the only ones who struggle with this problem. I have also heard from fire and emergency personnel complaining about the same issue when the situation wasn't just inconvenient, but life-threatening. Readers, please take a moment to walk to the curb and see if your street address is visible. Fixing the problem could be as simple as trimming some bushes.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been arguing over whether food must be covered while it's being heated in the microwave. I always cover it because it takes little effort and prevents splatters. He refuses, unless the food is very saucy or greasy. When I ask why he won't do it, he has no answer.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

It would be one thing if he routinely cleaned the microwave, but he never does, leaving me to do it. This has caused shouting matches between us. How can we settle this, short of throwing away the microwave?

UNCOVERED OUT WEST

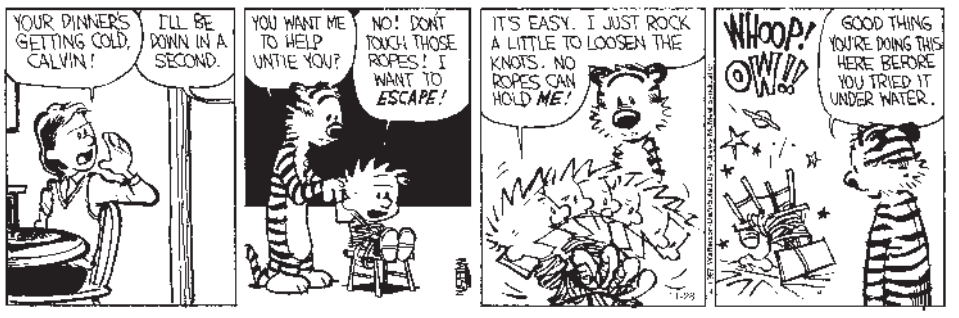
DEAR UNCOVERED: Do not toss out a perfectly good microwave over this issue. Praise your husband when he covers the saucy/greasy foods, and remember to throw a paper towel over his dinner when he "forgets."

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

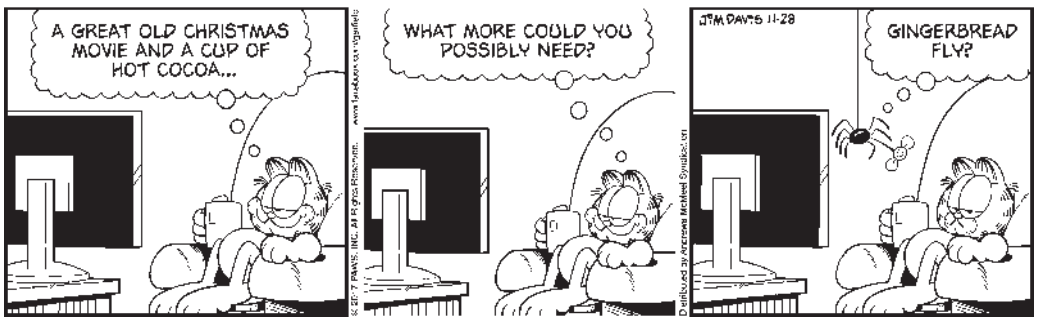
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOUR DINNER'S GETTING COLD, CALVIN!
I'LL BE DOWN IN A SECOND.
YOU WANT ME TO HELP UNTIE YOU?
NO! DON'T TOUCH THOSE ROPES! I WANT TO ESCAPE!
IT'S EASY. I JUST ROCK A LITTLE TO LOOSEN THE KNOTS. NO ROPES CAN HOLD ME!
WHOOP! OW!!
GOOD THING YOU'RE DOING THIS HERE BEFORE YOU TRIED IT UNDER WATER.

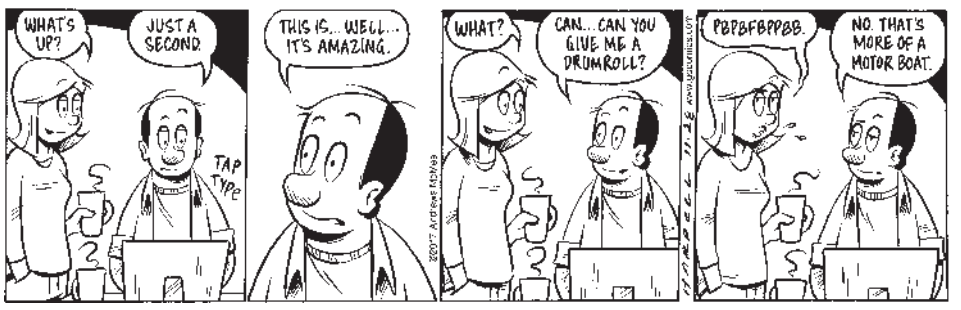
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

'SCUSE ME — HOW DO YOU THINK I'D LOOK IN THIS SHIRT?
I THINK YOU'D LOOK GREAT IN IT! AWESOME! INCREDIBLE! OH BABY!
LET ME GUESS - YOU WORK ON COMMISSION.
I HATE LYING FOR A LIVING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

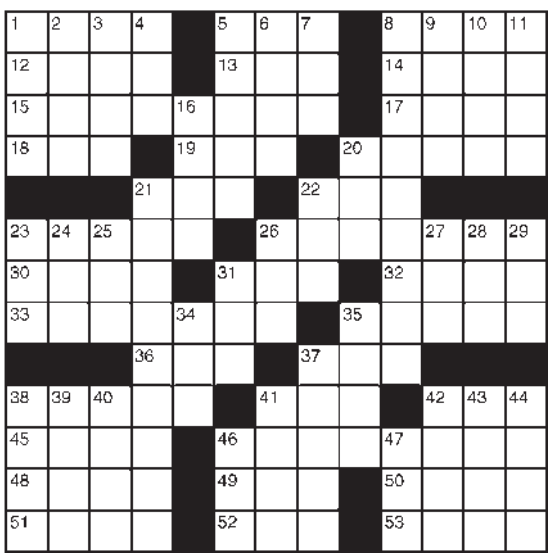
ACROSS
1 It gets in the whey
5 Secret agent
8 Luau dance
12 Popular cookie
13 Water tester
14 Composer Stravinsky
15 Intellectual
17 Glitz partner
18 CIA forerunner
19 Wilder's "— Town"
20 Impulses
21 Drone
22 Lobbying org.
23 Anticipate
26 During every evening
30 Karaoke selection
31 Buddhist sect
32 On the briny
33 Short-tempered person
35 A bit lit
36 Harpy
37 Not 'neath
38 Chirp
41 Curved line
42 West of Hollywood
45 Conceal
46 Whiskey cocktail
48 Mideast airline
49 Oklahoma city
50 "Beetle Bailey" dog
51 Stately trees
52 Chess piece
53 Drudge

DOWN
1 Silver salmon
2 "Topaz" author
3 Rules (Abbr.)
4 Homer's cry
5 Play the banjo
6 Indigent
7 Evergreen tree
8 Baby's seat at the table
9 Wrinkled fruit
10 Clay-rich soil
11 Weaponry
16 Boxing match
20 Witty one
21 Shoes that elevate
22 Brooch
23 Fireplace residue
24 Romance
25 Busy insect
26 Actor Beatty
27 Recipe abbr.
28 Guitar master Paul
29 "Rah!"
31 Sharp turn
34 Nosh
35 Georgia or Cal
37 Church keyboard
38 Biblical pronoun
39 Volition
40 Dutch cheese
41 Verdi opera
42 Partner
43 Saxophone range
44 Carolina college
46 Sandwich meat
47 Jazzy style

Solution time: 22 mins.

T	E	L			G	A	P		J	A	V	A
R	A	I	N		A	R	I		L	P	O	N
A	R	E	A		M	A	X		R	E	N	T
P	L	U	T	O		B	E	T	A			
			I	R	A		L	A	S	S	I	E
R	I	C	O	T	T	A		U	S	A	G	E
E	D	E	N		E	M	I	T		I	D	O	L
D	F	I	A	Y		S	O	R	C	F	R	Y
S	A	L	L	O	W		Y	A	P			
			P	U	R	L		G	A	F	F	E
G	A	Z	A		A	O	K		R	A	I	L
E	V	E	R		P	O	E		K		S	S
M	E	E	K		S	K	Y		R	T	E	

Yesterday's answer 11-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 41; Jon Stewart, 55; Ed Harris, 67; Paul Shaffer, 68.

Happy Birthday: Use your imagination to come up with new ways to exhibit your talents and attributes this year. Physical improvements should be your goal, along with better relationships with those you live with or deal with daily. A career change or upgrading your qualifications will bring about positive changes and new friendships with like-minded individuals. Use discipline to curb emotional setbacks. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 27, 32, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotions will rise to the surface. Before you say something, make sure you have your facts straight or it may affect your relationship with someone important. Preparation and detail will make a difference. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be brave and tuck your emotions away someplace safe. Refuse to let anyone goad you into revealing information that is better kept a secret. Observation, assessing situations and looking for unique solutions will turn a negative into a positive. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can make a difference if you join forces with others who feel the same way you do about what's going on in your community. Don't sell yourself short. Take a leadership position and offer intelligent solutions to existing problems. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Your emotions will kick in and cause havoc if you bring about too many changes. Don't let the actions of others unnerve you or cost you time and money. Stay focused on what's important and finish what you start. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Business trips, educational pursuits and meetings are favored. Your knowledge and responsible attitude will grab the attention of someone who can make a difference in your life. Explore your interests and you'll find a way to make money doing something you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look over your financial situation and make adjustments that will encourage you to save more and spend less. Don't let anyone put demands on you that will restrict your ability to get ahead. Stay focused on taking care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't mix emotions with business. You have to stay alert and ready to take on new challenges. Being responsible will help you overcome any obstacle that comes your way. Trust your intelligence to outmaneuver any competition you face. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Personal improvements, self-awareness and exploring your options are highlighted. Don't hold back -- when you see something you want, take the initiative to pursue your goal. Love and romance are on the rise and will enrich your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't give in to emotional mind games or anyone trying to make your life difficult. Bring about positive changes and surround yourself with people who offer support and hands-on help. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take pride in the way you look and how you present who you are and what you do to others. The more marketable you are, the easier it will be to gain support. Romance is in the stars.✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Do what you can to help others, but don't let anyone trick you into taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Bring about changes by voicing your opinion and collaborating with people who are as interested in improvement as you are. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let what others do or say lead to a spat. Listen and reflect, but don't give in to someone trying to coerce you into a debate. Stay focused on personal gains and self-improvement. Take health issues into your own hands. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, mysterious and innovative. You are energetic and disciplined.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	5	7		9	4	3	
			3		8			
		2				9		
6	5						8	9
				3				
8	2						7	5
		7				2		
			2		6			
	3	9	1		7	8	5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	1	6	9	4	8	3	5
3	4	8	1	5	2	7	6	9
9	5	6	3	7	8	2	1	4
5	8	9	7	4	1	6	2	3
6	3	4	8	2	9	1	5	7
2	1	7	5	6	3	9	4	8
1	6	5	9	3	7	4	8	2
4	7	3	2	8	6	5	9	1
8	9	2	4	1	5	3	7	6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HAWAII'S LAVA CAVES Solution: 8 letters

K	P	E	S	E	V	A	C	I	N	O	C	I	Y	H
I	A	C	T	E	E	G	A	S	S	A	P	U	F	T
P	H	Z	E	U	Z	S	H	A	P	E	L	N	I	W
U	O	O	M	I	N	A	R	U	P	O	C	U	D	O
K	E	C	L	U	L	N	L	T	N	O	O	N	I	R
A	H	H	A	E	R	I	E	G	O	I	N	A	L	G
N	O	A	Y	B	S	A	N	L	I	A	T	M	O	N
I	E	N	E	S	E	O	I	G	S	L	I	A	S	I
H	D	N	R	U	T	N	I	O	O	A	N	U	H	H
O	L	E	A	S	G	E	E	N	R	L	U	N	E	C
N	E	L	R	C	M	A	E	A	E	A	O	A	L	N
A	I	U	R	U	Ⓡ	Ⓤ	Ⓛ	Ⓟ	T	U	U	L	T	A
K	H	U	L	T	N	E	D	D	I	H	S	O	E	R
T	S	O	H	A	R	D	E	N	E	D	I	A	R	B
T	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	E	S	I	L	V	E	R

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Beneath, Braid, Branching, Caves, Ceiling, Channel, Continuous, Cooling, Crust, Earth, Erosion, Glaze, Growth, Hardened, Hidden, Holes, Hualalai, Iconic, Kanohina, Kazmura, Kilauea, Kipuka, Layer, Long, Manu Nui, Mauna Loa, Pahoehoe, Passage, Pour, Shape, Shelter, Shield, Silver, Solidify, Steep, Thurston, Tunnels, Volcanoes, Volume

Yesterday's Answer: Salt

Purchase **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1** or **#2** in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6460.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/KCHC-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 16, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

"GROUNDS KEEPING SERVICES KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/KCHC-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 22, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

"HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to Dissolve SHINRYO CORPORATION, a corporation, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporation for filing in accordance with the CNMI Code. Any person who objects to such dissolution must give good cause for his objection, within one (1) week from date of this notice, to be submitted to the Office of Registrar of Corporation.

Issued at Saipan, CNMI,
this 28th day of November, 2017

By: SHINRYO CORPORATION, PO BOX 502000,
Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DEQ-002

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 21, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SEDIMENT SAMPLING AT 303(D) LISTED WATERSHED STREAM DISCHARGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2013 CNMI SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **NOVEMBER 28, 2017** FROM BECQ/DEQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **rodneycamacho@becq.gov.mp** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO **rodneycamacho@becq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 12, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSAL SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR OR BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week, 6 days per week, 7am - 2pm
Rate: $7.05 to $7.25/hr
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: November 28, 2017

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Hafa Adai!
Torres: Earthjustice lawsuit affects military's plans. PAGE 3
CUC waiting for executive director candidate to accept offe
EVEN AS USCIS SETS 2017 CW-1 CAP AT 12,99
CNMI needs to tap available W
CUC: Gulick, DHS ignoring
SCHORR
Schorr ranking
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
rain, Royals comeback

WHATZIT Solution: Robinson Crusoe

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

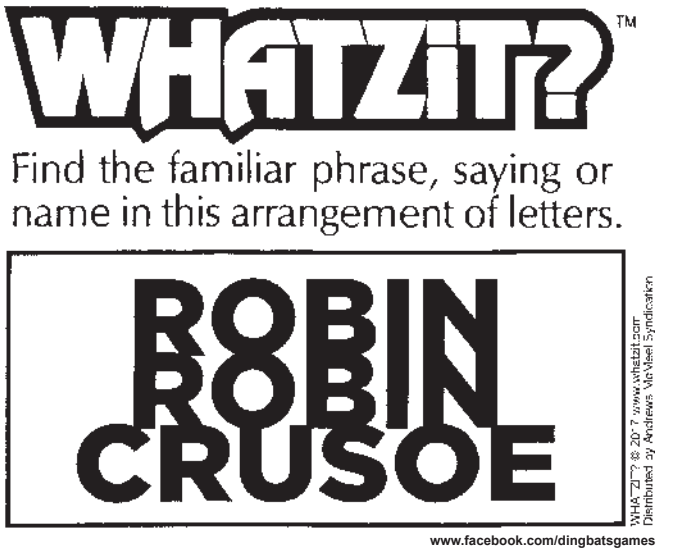
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Wentz lifts leading Eagles past Bears

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Carson Wentz tossed three touchdown passes and the NFL-leading Philadelphia Eagles beat the Chicago Bears 31-3 Sunday for their ninth straight win.

The Eagles (10-1) reduced their magic number to clinch the NFC East to one with their fourth consecutive win by at least 23 points and third in a row by exactly 28. Philadelphia would secure its first division title since 2013 if the Cowboys (5-6) lose or tie Washington on Thursday night.

Wentz had 227 yards passing, LeGarrette Blount ran for 97 yards and Zach Ertz caught 10 passes for 103 yards and one TD.

The defense dominated rookie quarterback Mitchell Trubisky and the inept Bears (3-8), holding them to zero first downs in the first half and 140 total yards in the game.

The Bears won the turnover battle (3-2), but couldn't do anything with excellent field position.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles' Carson Wentz, center, is tackled by Chicago Bears' Jonathan Bullard, left, and Sam Acho during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Philadelphia.

Raiders 21, Broncos 14

In Oakland, Derek Carr threw two touchdown passes after losing starting receiver Michael Crabtree to an ejection for his role in a brawl, and the Raiders spoiled Paxton Lynch's first start of the season.

The story coming into the game was about the upheaval for the two teams after Denver (3-8) fired offensive coordinator Mike McCoy and made another quarterback change and Oakland (5-6) fired defensive coordinator Ken Norton Jr .

But the fight between Crabtree and cornerback Aqib Talib that led to three ejections ended up overshadowing the recent disarray even as the Raiders recorded their long-awaited first interception of the season in their first game under defensive play-caller John Pagano. The Broncos lost seven games in a row for the first time in 50 years.

Steelers 31, Packers 28

In Pittsburgh, Chris Boswell kicked a career-long 53-yard field goal as time expired to give Pittsburgh the victory over Green Bay.

The Steelers (9-2) won their sixth straight thanks in large part to wide receiver Antonio Brown. Brown caught 10 passes for 169 yards and two scores and also made a pair of catches on the deciding drive, including a 23-yard grab on the sideline that put the Steelers into Green Bay territory.

Brown added a 14-yard reception on the next play. Two snaps, later Boswell drilled the winner and his teammates mobbed him at midfield.

Patriots 35, Dolphins 17

In Foxborough, Tom Brady tossed four touchdown passes—including two to Rob Gronkowski—and the Patriots pushed through injuries and a mistake-filled game.

New England (9-2) posted its seventh consecutive victory and third straight win over Miami. The Dolphins (4-7) have lost five straight for their longest slide since 2011.

It was Brady's 28th career game with four or more touchdown passes, ranking third all-time. His 26 touchdowns passes are the most in a season after turning 40 years old.

Rex Burkhead also scored two TDs and Dion Lewis had 15 carries for 112 yards for New England, marking his first career 100-yard game.

Falcons 34, Buccaneers 20

In Atlanta, Julio Jones hauled in 12 passes for 253 yards and two touchdowns in one of the best games of his career.

Rekindling memories of the Super Bowl, the Falcons (7-4) nearly squandered a big lead to a team playing its third game without injured quarterback Jameis Winston. The Buccaneers (4-7) rebounded from a 27-6 deficit behind backup Ryan Fitzpatrick and drove deep into Atlanta territory after forcing a fumble at the other end of the field.

But Keanu Neal battled down Fitzpatrick's pass on fourth-and-1 at the Atlanta 18 with just over seven minutes remaining, and the Falcons drove for a clinching touchdown on Tevin Coleman's 14-yard run with just under two minutes to go.

Bengals 30, Browns 16

In Cincinnati, rookie Joe Mixon ran for a career-high 114 yards in the Bengals' best offensive showing since the last time they faced Cleveland.

The result sent the Browns into December still winless for the second year in a row.

The Bengals (5-6) won back-to-back games for the second time this season. They hadn't scored so many points since they won 31-7 at Cleveland on Oct. 1.

Mixon also had an 11-yard touchdown that put it away in the fourth quarter. The Bengals came into the game with the worst rushing offense in the NFL, making it to 100 yards only once before.

Rams 26, Saints 20

In Los Angeles, Jared Goff passed for 354 yards and hit Sammy Watkins and rookie Josh Reynolds for touchdowns, and the Rams snapped the Saints' eight-game winning streak in a meeting of NFC division leaders.

NFL scoring leader Greg Zuerlein kicked four field goals for the Rams (8-3), who earned their fifth victory in six games. For the first time since 2006, this revitalized franchise is guaranteed not to finish the regular season with a losing record.

Los Angeles turned in a gritty defensive effort against the high-scoring Saints (8-3), holding Drew Brees to 246 yards passing—just 96 in the first three quarters—and sacking him three times.

Cardinals 27, Jaguars 24

In Glendale, Phil Dawson kicked a career-long 57-yard field goal with 1 second to play, snapping the Jaguars' four-game winning streak and dropping them into a tie with Tennessee for the AFC South lead.

The 42-year-old kicker, who had uncharacteristically missed six field goals this season, also was good from 34 and 42 yards as the Cardinals (5-6) beat a team with a winning record for the first time this season.

Jacksonville (7-4) trailed most of the game, but took a 17-16 lead when ex-Cardinal Calais Campbell returned Blaine Gabbert's fumble 10 yards for a touchdown with 12:10 to play.

Seahawks 24, 49ers 13

In Santa Clara, Russell Wilson threw for two touchdowns to give him 150 career TDs passing and also ran for a short score.

Wilson connected on a 17-yard touchdown pass to Nick Vannett in the third quarter, and a 1-yarder early in the fourth to Jimmy Graham, whose 16 TD receptions passed Jerramy Stevens for most by a Seattle tight end.

Jimmy Garoppolo made his 49ers debut with 1:07 remaining after starting quarterback C.J. Beathard went down on a hit by Michael Bennett as he threw a pass. Garoppolo—acquired from New England at the trade deadline last month and hoped by the 49eers (1-10) to stay on the shelf a little longer—immediately scrambled to gain 4 yards and found Louis Murphy for a 10-yard touchdown as time expired.

Bills 16, Chiefs 10

In Kansas City, Tyrod Taylor threw for 183 yards and a touchdown in his return to the starting lineup, Tre'Davious White intercepted Alex Smith with just over a minute remaining to clinch it.

Zay Jones had the touchdown reception and Stephen Hauschka kicked three field goals for the Bills (6-5), but the story was their defense—or the Chiefs' complete lack of offense.

Kansas City (6-5) managed only 236 yards while losing for the fifth time in six games.

It was an especially gratifying win for Bills coach Sean McDermott, who spent 10-plus seasons working for Chiefs counterpart Andy Reid in Philadelphia. And it was even more so considering the heat McDermott had been under after his questionable quarterback change last week.

Panthers 35, Jets 27

In East Rutherford, Luke Kuechly returned a fumble 34 yards for a touchdown and Kaelin Clay had a 60-yard punt return for a score, capping a stunning swing in the fourth quarter that lifted the Panthers.

It was the fourth straight victory for the Panthers (8-3), who were trying to keep pace with the first-place Saints in the NFC South. The teams meet next Sunday at New Orleans.

This one turned in a span of 2 minutes, 11 seconds on mistakes by the Jets (4-7) —and the Panthers taking advantage.

First, Kuechly scooped up a fumble by Josh McCown, who was sacked by Wes Horton and had the ball knocked out of his hand as he was about to throw, and rumbled to the end zone for a touchdown.

Titans 20, Colts 16

In Indianapolis, the Titans got their first win in 10 tries at Lucas Oil Stadium when DeMarco Murray scored on a 1-yard touchdown run with 5:59 left.

The Titans (7-4) pulled off their first series sweep since 2002. And they did it by rallying from a 10-point third-quarter deficit again—just as they had six weeks earlier against the Colts.

Indy (3-8) has lost three straight home games and five of its last six overall. It is one loss away from having the first losing year in coach Chuck Pagano's six seasons.

Dragic, Ellington power Heat over Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Goran Dragic and the Miami Heat followed the lowest-scoring first quarter in team history with the highest-scoring one of the season to beat the Chicago Bulls.

After scoring seven points in the first quarter, Miami had 38 in the second to take a 45-42 lead en route to a 100-93 victory Sunday.

Dragic scored 24 points, Wayne Ellington had 19 points and five 3-pointers off the bench and the Heat's four reserves outscored their five starters. James Johnson added 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and fellow reserves Tyler Johnson and Kelly Olynyk scored 10 points apiece as the Heat bench produced 54 points to extend the team's winning streak to three.

Jerian Grant led Chicago with a career-high 24 points. Denzel Valentine had 14 points and career highs of 13 rebounds and seven assists.

"They (the bench) inspired the whole team," Heat coach Erik Spelstra said. "We were looking for some kind of energy, some kind of separation. We understand that it was going to be a 48-minute game and they played some inspiring basketball, not only in the fourth quarter but in that second quarter. That's what really changed the momentum and brought us back into it."

Ellington ignited the Heat after the 2-for-19 first-quarter from the field, scoring 10 points and hitting three 3-pointers as Miami shot 68.4 percent in the second quarter.

The Heat started slow again in the third quarter, prompting Spoelstra to leave his second- and third-leading scorers, Dion Waiters (four points) and Hassan Whiteside (11 points, nine rebounds), on the bench down the stretch as the Heat pulled away after Chicago cut Miami's lead to 83-81 with five minutes, 40 seconds to play.

"I don't think we look at it like Dion or Whiteside or Dragic," James Johnson said. "We have a lot of weapons on this team. We have a lot of guys who could do it. We're all trying to play our roles and master that."

Justin Holliday added 15 points for the Bulls, who lost their fifth in a row following an 0-4 West Coast trip.

Nets 98, Grizzlies 88

In Memphis, the misery remains for the Memphis Grizzlies, and friction seems to be building in the locker room.

Memphis dropped its eighth straight on Sunday in a loss to the Brooklyn Nets. The Grizzlies made a fourth-quarter dent in a Nets lead that stretched to 19, all while center Marc Gasol was in a warmup on the bench. Despite matching Tyreke Evans for the team lead with 18 points, Gasol, who leads the team in scoring, rebounds and assists, wasn't called on to play in the final period.

And he wasn't pleased.

"I do not know the why," Gasol said of not playing down the stretch, later adding: "It's a first for me, trust me, and I don't like it one bit. I'm more (ticked) than I can show and frustrated."

Speaking before Gasol, Memphis coach David Fizdale said his decision was based on the reserves playing well and cutting into the Brooklyn lead. He said not much has worked for the team during the skid, particularly Sunday, when the Grizzlies gave up the lead in a poor third quarter.

Asked about Gasol's reaction about not playing down the stretch, Fizdale said: "We'll address it if it needs to be addressed, but it was a pretty simple decision what I did. It's nothing against him. I'm trying to win a game. I'm desperate."

AP

Chicago Bulls' Justin Holiday (7) goes up for a shot against Miami Heat's James Johnson (16) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, in Chicago. Miami won, 100-93.

Timberwolves 119, Suns 108

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns' scoring actually meant something this time.

Two days after his coach characterized his late points as "meaningless" in a listless loss to Miami, Towns led a balanced offensive attack for Minnesota with 32 points and 12 rebounds and the Timberwolves beat Phoenix.

Alongside Jimmy Butler with 25 points and Andrew Wiggins with 21, Towns kept the Wolves from another bad loss, this one against a Phoenix team missing top scorer Devin Booker.

"Whatever the game plan is offensively, I try to go out there and execute as best as possible," Towns said. "Whether it is shoot 30-plus shots, or shoot five shots."

The Wolves probably prefer the former, as long as he shoots the way he did Sunday. Towns went 12 of 26 from the floor, including two 3-pointers, and hit all six of his free-throw attempts.

Coach Tom Thibodeau criticized Towns for not moving without the ball on Friday night, when his star big man got rolling too late. On Sunday, he scored 30 points for the third time this season and recorded his league-leading 16th double-double.

"I thought Karl had great activity today, so that was good," Thibodeau said. "We need that from him."

Ronaldo holds 'secret transfer talks' with PSG

MADRID—Cristiano Ronaldo has reportedly held secret talks with Paris Saint-Germain.

The 32-year-old has been heavily linked with a move away from the Bernabeu for a while now and it seems his agent Jorge Mendes could be pushing things forward.

The Real Madrid star has asked Mendes to look into other options as contract talks have come to a stop in the Spanish capital.

The four-time Ballon d'Or winner is said to want a pay rise otherwise he plans to leave at the end of the season despite his current contract set to expire in 2021.

Yet the Real Madrid president Florentino Perez seems to be in no rush to give Ronaldo an improved contract.

Diario Gol are reporting that Ronaldo has secretly met with representatives from PSG in a Madrid hotel.

The situation remains now that Ronaldo is planning to keep his options open for his future but would prefer to stay with Zinedine Zidane's side.

PSG however seem to be the only club coming forward with belief they could fund the forward's contract wishes.

Ronaldo has been on top form in the Champions League so far this season but has only scored once in La Liga.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid want PSG midfielder Adrien Rabiot to be their long-term replacement for Luka Modric.

Madrid are already planning Modric's succession at Santiago Bernabeu, with the Croatia international set to turn 33 next year. Rabiot is one of club president Florentino Perez's main targets, along with Tottenham attacker Dele Alli.

Twins keen on acquiring Darvish, Ohtani

MINNESOTA—The Twins are prepared to make a play for free agent right-hander Yu Darvish and two-way star Shohei Ohtani, according to comments made by general manager Thad Levine on Sunday. While the club isn't the presumed front-runner in the Ohtani sweepstakes, they still have a significant amount of bonus pool space remaining and could make a compelling case for the 23-year-old's services when he's posted next month.

"He's a unique free agent, but we don't know a lot about him personally yet," Levine said. "It's exciting for us because we have a chance to sign a player like him […] He's a top priority for us."

Darvish, meanwhile, could easily command one of the biggest contracts this winter. The 31-year-old right-hander worked a collective 10-12 record in 31 starts for the 2017 Rangers and Dodgers, supplementing his efforts with a 3.86 ERA, 2.8 BB/9 and 10.1 SO/9 over 186 2/3 innings. Over five full seasons in the major leagues, the righty has amassed 19.0 fWAR, four All-Star nominations, three 200-strikeout campaigns and a strikeout rate that has never dipped below 10.0 SO/9. As the top starting pitcher currently on the market, he's projected to attract a multiyear deal upwards of $150 million.

Of course, Darvish and Ohtani won't be the Twins' only targets this offseason. Levine said that he's been in contact with the agents for free agent starters Jake Arrieta, Lance Lynn and Alex Cobb, as well as several back-end bullpen arms. Arrieta will also command a pretty penny in free agency, but Lynn and Cobb represent solid starters with much lower price tags and could easily boost a pitching staff that finished 22nd in the league in 2017.

Meanwhile, the Detroit Tigers have agreed to a one-year contract with left-hander Blaine Hardy, avoiding arbitration with the 30-year-old reliever.

The Tigers also announced Saturday that they have signed right-handers Kevin Comer and Mark Montgomery, infielder Niko Goodrum and outfielder-first baseman Chad Huffman to minor league contracts for the 2018 season. Those four players also received invites to major league spring training.

Hardy went 1-0 with a 5.94 ERA in 35 games for Detroit in 2017.

Oleai track oval still closed to public

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is again reminding the public that the Oleai track oval is still closed for public use as NMSA has yet to finish all repairs and renovation at the facility.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi said they are asking the public to remain patient since they wanted all improvements at the track and field stadium to be completed before they reopen the facility.

They would again ask for help from Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony T. Benavente to lend them the tiller machine to soften up the field and break up the old grass.

"We need to use the tiller again to break up the grass so the grounds crew of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort could come in and work on the field. We're asking the public to be patient and we're going to open the facility once the grass is replaced," said Rogolifoi. "We are thankful for all the help given to us by the people in the community, especially, Sec. [Tony] Benavente and LaoLao's management. Without their equipment and manpower, we won't be able to do it."

He is asking the public, who usually walk or jog around the oval when it was still open, to refrain from climbing over the fence.

"The facility is still closed after the resurfacing was done this year. We need to keep the track in good shape for several sporting events that we're going to host," said Rogolifoi.

Saipan will be hosting the Micronesian Athletics Championships in June next year and the 2021 Pacific Mini Games with the Oleai Sports Complex being the main hub of both events.

Rogolifoi added they will be imposing a minimal fee to all walkers and joggers who would use the track. "We will be collecting fees once we opened the facility again to the public. We [NMSA] have already discussed the fees and the amount is not that much, maybe either $0.50 or $1. The money that we're going to collect will be used for the maintenance of the facility. We're planning to do maintenance every three months and we're going to use water blasters."

He added that they would need two more water blasters for the maintenance work at the Oleai Sports Complex. "Three or four would be perfect for us. We also need to extend the water pipes going to the track oval."

Rogolifoi brought several pop up sprinklers that they plan to install at the baseball field and at the track oval.

"We plan to install these sprinklers to prepare the fields for the dry season. We will also need a water pump to help with the water pressure."

Maui tops 'Champion Golfer of the Year' tourney

Wilhelm "Paki" Maui won the 4th Annual Ye Olde Saipanne Golfe Clubbe "Champion Golfer of the Year" tournament held last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Maui ruled the weekend competition after posting an impressive gross score of 77 in windy and rainy conditions at the Talofofo course. Maui, a nine-handicapper, shot a 37 on the front nine and 40 on the back for a net score of 68. His display of golfing prowess was especially pronounced on the No. 9 and No. 15 holes, both of which Maui birdied.

On the No. 9, the former bodybuilder muscled a massive drive over the pond guarding the fairway and followed by flipping a five iron onto the putting surface. After narrowly missing an eagle putt, Maui settled for a tap-in birdie. On the No. 14, Maui smashed another gargantuan drive into the teeth of a 25-mile an hour wind, then drilled an 8-iron beneath the breeze to six feet before burying the birdie putt.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Champion Golfer of the Year Wil Maui receives the winner's "check" from Ye Olde Saipanne Golfe Clubbe secretary Richard "Caddy Dipper" Miller.

Maui continued his torrid scoring pace right to the end of his round, as he saved par on the difficult No. 17 hole before reaching the par-4 No. 18 in two shots and calmly two-putting for a par 4 in front of the assembled mob consisting of his fellow competitors.

After the final scores were tallied, Maui's net 68 was six strokes better than second place finisher Rob "Sandy" Hazlett, a 22-handicapper and finished with a gross 96 for a net 74. In third place was Greg "Fossil" Koebel, who shot a gross 86 which translated to a net 75 for the 11-handicapper.

Also playing in the tournament were two past Ye Olde Saipanne Golfe Clubbe "Champion Golfers of the Year" Michael "26" Deary, who took the title in 2016 and Don "Champ" Dunlop, who won the inaugural event in 2014. Other participants included Richard "Fast Richie" Jones, "Fat" Jack McClure, Tim "Tex" Brasuell, Jim "Bubba" Gebhard, "Double" Dan Harding, Kai-yo Podziewski, and Grant Balmer.

HK

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the Asia Cup Team Pursuit race (2008 and 2009). Yuen finished at No. 45 in the World Championship U23 road race in 2011 and won the bronze medal in the 2008 Asian Junior Championships. He was also a consistent Top 5 finisher in various races in Milwaukee, Thailand, China, Indonesia, and Taiwan from 2008 to 2011.

Wong, meanwhile, had a number of wins in several Hong Kong races since 2014. His most recent victory was the 2017 HK Vita Green TTT and he also ruled the Stage 3 of the Hong Kong Cycling Association HK Cup open division. Wong placed second overall in the HKCA Cup open category and claimed runner-up honors in the second stage of the same race both held this year. He is a Team Success member along with Wan and Chiu, while Yuen is racing under the EVO Sports banner with Caputo.

Wong, who is also known by his English name Bryan, had similar second place finishes in the 2016 HKCA HK Cup open division and in Stage 4 of the Tour of Egat Kanchanaburi or Tour of Friendship in Thailand.

He came in at fifth in the 2016 men's Individual Time Trial in the HK National Championship, surpassing his sixth place finish the previous year. He was the 2015 Elite B category champion of the HKCA ITT after placing third in 2014.

Chiu, whose Union Cycliste International (International Cycling Union) world ranking is 1,891, is fresh from an fifth place finish (overall) in this year's Hong Kong National Championships road race won by Chun Wing Leung. He also finished eighth overall in the men's ITT, a huge improvement from his No. 18 ranking last year. He placed 20th in the 2015 road race and did not finish the same event in 2014.

Wan, was 20th overall in the HK national road race championships and also had impressive finishes in the HKCA Road Race in 2016 and 2015. He was 55th overall in the Taiwan King of the Mountain Challenge held last month in Hualien.

In the women's division, Hong Kong will have two bikers in Chao Yu Ng and two-time Olympian Jamie Wong. Both are representing Team Success with Wong favored to win the women's crown.

KANOA

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Markus Toves started things out for Kanoa U12, as his hat trick lifted the team to a 4-1 victory over Academy Boys U11 last Friday. Sean Gil scored the other goal for Kanoa U12. Other members of the squad were Daniel Mar Pablo, Jim Kurt Maniag, Joe Emil Antonio, John Mark Anastacio, Ruben Guerrero, Joshua Park, Jerome Quidato, Lester Bata, Lelan Isaiah Deleon Guerrero, Andrew Sablan, and Devin Jordan Propst.

For its second game last Saturday, Kanoa forced Islanders Betde FC to a draw, 3-3, with Toves drilling two goals and Maniago adding one. Kanoa had back-to-back matches in Day 2 of the event and this time crushed Southern Cobras, 7-1. Again, Toves starred in the win, knocking in three goals, while Park, Guerrero, and Deleon Guerredo contributed one each. The visiting team got an own goal from Southern Cobras' error.

Kanoa played two more matches in the last day of the Gobblefest, drawing Wings FC in the morning, 2-2, and beating Academy Boys U12 in the afternoon, 5-3. Against Wings FC, Maniago and Sablan hit the board foe Kanoa. Versus Academy Boys U12, Toves had his third hat trick in the event, while Maniago, and Gil registered the two other goals.

In the girls U15, Kanoa started its string of victories with a 4-0 shutout win over Academy Girls U14. Paulyn Grace Joyce delivered three goals for Kanoa, while Sophia Quintos posted one. Princess Alcantara, Sharmaine Francisco, Khristelle Itaas, Ericka Santiago, Hannah Santos, Maria Theresa Toves, Ruschell Valino, Sue Ann Huevos, Nathanette Vlas, and Keisha Deloen Guerrero also suited up for Kanoa U15.

Up next for Kanoa was Quality Distributors and the former cruised to a 4-0 triumph, thanks to Joyce and Francisco's two goals each.

The squad's two other wins were also via shutouts, as it topped Southern Cobras and Islanders in similar scores, 3-0. Joyce nailed a pair in their victory over the Southern Cobras, while Francisco made one. Against the Islanders, it was Francisco's turn to score twice, while Joyce hit the board once. For its fifth game, Kanoa saved the best for last, as the team walloped Academy Girls U14 anew, 7-1. Joyce was unstoppable in Kanoa's final game after firing four goals, while Huevos, Deleon Guerrero, and Santos chipped in one each.

Meanwhile, Kanoa FC president Merlie Tolentino lauded the two teams' performance and thanked GFA for inviting their club to play in the Gobblefest.

"The two teams played well, showcasing their much-improved skills in last weekend's event. Their participating in GFA event is sort of an incentive for their strong performance in the youth league this season," she said. "We would like to thank GFA and the event organizers as they always give us slots in the festival."

KAGA

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the podium.

Heras clinched the singles crown after surviving Tan in the extended finale. Heras prevailed in the opening set, 6-0, but failed to close out the match early when Tan recovered with a 6-2 triumph. Then in the super-tiebreaker third set, Heras regained her formed and registered a 10-5 win.

The eventual champion moved into the finals after beating Conatsu in the semis, 6-3, 6-1. The older Kaga marched into the semis following a 6-0, 6-1 victory against Maria Gregoire, while the former's sister Coume edged Miyawaki, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Coume then challenged Tan for the second finals berth and the latter won, 6-2, 6-4, to arrange a finals duel against Heras.

In other results, Helen Kim and Hye Jin Elliot were unbeaten in two games to get the girls U12 doubles championship.

Kim and Elliot first swept Dana Lee and Hoo Wang last Friday, 6-0, 6-1, and then recorded another victory after two sets against Serin Chung and Savia Sikkel last Sunday, 6-0, 6-3, to rule the division. Lee and Wang settled for the runner-up honors as they earlier defeated Chung and Sikkel last Saturday, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

GCA completes All Schools meet sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Grace Christian Academy's Lennosuke Suzuki does the backstroke part of the 200m individual medley race during the 2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet held last Nov. 18 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Grace Christian Academy made a historic sweep in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet as the Eagles' high school swimmers also ruled their division.

GCA earned 103 points in the high school races of the Nov. 18 competition held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool to beat many-time champion Marianas High School (95), Mt. Carmel School (72), and Saipan Southern High School (16). The Eagles earlier topped the elementary and middle school divisions, making GCA the first school to win all the categories in the SSC-organized meet.

Lennosuke Suzuki, Jinju Thompson, Aika Watanabe, Taisha Reyes, Jasmin Frink, Taisha Reyes, and Chener Li swam for GCA's high school crew to edge Marianas High School's David Boyer, Mark Maestro, Grace Zhang, Katherine Illahi, Nelson Batallones, and Dominic Yumul.

Thompson and Watanabe gave GCA two first place finishes, while Suzuki duplicated that feat in the men's side. Thompson prevailed in the 400m freestyle and 200m individual medley swims, while Watanabe and triumphed in the 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke, and Suzuki won the 200m freestyle and 200m IM. First place finishers were awarded with 9 points in the individual swim and 18 in relay, while the runners-up received 7 and 14.

Reyes placed second to Watanabe in the 50m backstroke, while Frink was behind the latter in the 50m freestyle. Chener was No. 2 in the men's 50m freestyle, which Mt. Carmel's Jan Millo Matthew won.

In the relay races, GCA was runner-up both in the 200m medley and 200m freestyle after clocking in at 2:28.00 and 2:18.13, respectively. MHS ruled the 200m medley with Zhang, Boyer, Batallones, and Illahi submitting 2:26.55. Mt. Carmel, on the other hand, reigned in the 200m freestyle relay as Milo, Yuuri Fukushi, Christian Villacrusis, and Quina Flores recorded 2:16.15. MHS (2:19.21) and Southern (4:38.41) also raced in the 200m freestyle relay.

Meanwhile, SSC thanked all the participating schools and their teachers/coaches/principals for making the meet possible.

"Congratulations to all the swimmers for their great performances. It was a great meet. I overheard several swimmers, first time participants and veterans, comment on how fun the meet was. That was great to hear. Overall, we had about 110 swimmers, 10 more than last year's. We also had a large number of first time participants which was great to see," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield said.

"Thank you for all the time and effort you put into preparing your swimmers. Congratulations to GCA for a clean sweep of all divisions and to all the schools for a job well done and for representing your school with pride," he added.

67 from 3 countries join Rota Blue Triathlon

Sixty-seven competitors from three countries joined the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon held last Nov. 18, with elite long-distance triathlete Masayuki Matsumaru and Hiromi Matsumaru of Japan finishing first in the Ironman (long distance) course.

The duo led a pack of 67 registered athletes, including 48 competitors from Japan, 10 from South Korea, and nine from the Northern Mariana Islands (eight from Saipan and one from Rota).

Following Masayuki's time of 3:55:17 in the men's division were Sung Jo Yoo of Korea (4:54:24) and Katsuhiko Hara of Japan (4:57:08). Following Hiromi's time of 4:28:46 in the women's division were Yeojin Yang of Korea (5:16:02) and Eunpa Kim of Korea (5:39:43).

In the half Ironman course, the men's division's Top 3 finishers were 34-year-old Tsukasa Hirano (1:57:38), 53-year-old Hideya Miyazuka (2:00:36), and 35-year-old Ken Takahashi (2:23:39) of Japan. The women's division was led by Keiko Nakakarumai (2:31:23), Ai Handa of Japan (2:39:03), and Heather Brook of Saipan (2:39:58).

"It's great to have the Rota Blue back this year," said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Although rough seas forced us to shorten the ocean swim, the athletes expressed much satisfaction with the event, overall."

Min Ki Kim of South Korea, who runs triathlons for fun, shared his thoughts about his first experience with the race.

"Very wonderful," said Kim. "The place and the view are fantastic. All arrangements and the venue are wonderful. And also the people are very warm, very happy. I love this place! Definitely, I will come back again."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A competitor tackles the final climb in the run leg of the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon

The event was co-organized by the MVA, Kiyokazu Fitness Club (KFC), Rota Mayor's Office, and Rota Municipal Council.

"A very good, perfect race! Thank you, and my appreciation to all the local people, who are so friendly, hospitable and kind," said KFC president Onishi Kiyokazu. "The MVA did a very good job on bringing athletes from Korea. We welcome all countries to Rota, and we plan to continue the Rota Blue triathlon."

This was also the first year KFC used regular flights to arrange travel for Japanese athletes, versus a charter flight.

"I feel really good about it. I'm so glad our visitors are really enjoying themselves today," said Rota Mayor's Office special assistant for programs and grants Aubry Hocog at the event awards dinner, which featured local cuisine and dance. "We always want them to have a good feeling when they leave Rota. We want to share our culture, share our great sites, and have them experience a little of what our island and people are about. Hopefully that will encourage others to come and visit."

The Rota Blue Triathlon is an annual signature event of the MVA and featured two distances: the A-type half marathon distance, which includes a 1.5-kilometer swim, followed by a 40K rigorous biking course and a 10K run (no time limit); and the B-type Olympic distance, which has a distance of 2K in the swim leg, 90K in the bike course and 21K run (8-hour time limit). This year, the swim leg for both courses was shortened (500m) due to the rough waters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Island agencies and local families man aid stations for the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Competitors and organizers of the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon held last Nov. 18 pose for a photo at the start line.

Wentz lifts leading Eagles past Bears

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Dragic, Ellington power Heat over Bulls

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Kanoa FC undefeated in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club's boys U12 and girls U15 teams proved why they were the champions in a local league as they went unbeaten in the 2017 GFA Fall Gobblefest Weekend held in Guam.

Kanoa's U12 players, who took the fall title in the 2017 NMIFA Youth League, won three games and drew two in the Guam Football Association-organized tournament held from Nov. 24 to Nov. 26 at the GFA Training Center in Dededo. The visiting club's U15 squad, which also triumphed in the NMIFA Fall League, was unscathed, too, prevailing in all its five matches in the soccer festival.

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Kanoa Football Club U12's Lester Bata, left, kicks the ball in front of the tight defense of an Islanders Betde FC player during their game in the 2017 GFA Fall Gobblefest Weekend in Guam last Saturday.

Kaga sisters win doubles crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Siblings Coume and Conatsu Kaga bagged the girls U18 doubles title in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic after downing Malika Miyawaki and Tania Tan, 6-4, 6-4, last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan courts.

The championship was first for the Kaga sisters this year since leaving Saipan in January to train at the ITF/OTF Regional Training Center in Fiji. Coume and Kaga received a scholarship from the Oceania Tennis Federation after their outstanding performance in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and stayed in Fiji for nearly 10 months to compete there and in Australia and New Caledonia.

They returned to Saipan last month and also entered the girls U18 event of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic. Coume and Conatsu collided in the battle for third place last Saturday with the latter edging the former, 9-8 (6) to join Tania Tan and Isabel Heras in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Conatsu Kaga makes a backhand return to her sister Coume during their third place match in the girls U18 singles division of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

HK riders no pushovers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Hong Kong is fielding a formidable team in the 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race with its national riders competing in this Saturday's event.

Chiu Tsun Hin, Wan Sing Laam, Wong Kai Chun, and Yuen Chi Ho are all entered in the pro/elite category and they hope to dethrone defending champion Jan Paul Morales of the Philippines. The four Hong Kong national riders will be joined by Italian pro Paolo Caputo, who now races under the flag of the former British colony. All four are under 30 years old, with Yuen the oldest at 27, while Chiu and Wan are both 23.

Yuen is the most celebrated biker among the four, as he is a six-time Hong Kong national rider and back-to-back champion in the China Cup Road Race (2010 and 2011). He also had consecutive podium finishes in

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wan Sing Laam is seen here competing in an international race. Wan is among the young Hong Kong riders that will see action in the Hell of the Marianas this Saturday.